

North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

VOL. LXII, No. 1656.

SHANGHAI, MAY 1, 1899.

PRICE, Tls. 12 ½ AN.

CONTENTS.

Advertisements—Latest dates—Births, Marriages, and Deaths, etc.	
Arrivals and Departures of Passengers, Shipping, etc.	
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Saddles	749
SUMMARY OF NEWS	750
MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES—	
The China Blue Book—IV	757
Do. —V	757
The Peking War Party	758
Incendiarism in Shanghai	759
The China Mutual S.N. Co., Ltd.	760
REVIEWS—	
The French Mail Papers	760
Notices of Books, Etc.	762
OUTPORTS, ETC.—	
Hanyang	763
Ichang	763
Iohoufu	764
Ningpo	764
Peking	764
Tientsin	765
W-i-haiwei	766
Notes from the South	767
London	768
Paris	768
ABSTRACT OF THE PEKING GAZETTE	769
MEETINGS—	
The Municipal Council	770
The Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce	771
The Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited	771
Hall & H. Itz, Limited	772
AMUSEMENTS—	
The Dagmar Co. at the Lyceum	773
The Sign of the Cross at the Lyceum	773
The Organ Recital	773
D'Arc's Marionettes	773
The Shanghai Rowing Club	774
The Shanghai Golf Club	774
Shooting—S.M.P.—Monthly Cup and Club Competition	774
CORRESPONDENCE—	
"In the Tao'ai's Court before His Honour Tsai, Taotai, and W. V. Drummond, Esq."—In re C. Bock v. Teh Siu-tze	774
Steamer Rates to Kuling	775
POETRY—	
Epitaph on a Late Stroke	775
MISCELLANEOUS—	
"Asecutus Non Quarit Lucrum, Sed Agit Ne in Damno Sit"	775
The New Bridge	776
The Police Inspection	776
The Shanghai Fire Department	776
North Kiangsu Famine Relief	777
Books, Etc., Received	777
Training Notes	777
The Kowloon Disturbance	778
The House of Commons	778
Terrible Hurricane in Australia	781
A Missing Link Found in Java	782
The China Squabble	782
LAW REPORTS—	
H. B. M.'s Supreme Court—	
McKroy v. Weir	782
In re The Taku Tug and Lighter Co., and Chang Chi (on appeal from the Provincial Court of Tientsin)	787
In re Joly and the Sun Fire Insurance Company of Canada	787
H. B. M.'s Police Court—	
Municipal Council v. Hoosein	789
R. v. Ganacopulos	789
Council v. W. B. Jamieson	790
Stubbe and Wentzenon v. J. D. Vaughan	790

U. S. Consular Court—

Koshler v. Levey	790
Drow v. Sylvester	790

Mixed Court—

The Fire at the Tailor's	791
Sundry Cases	792

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND WEEKLY

SUMMARY—	
Market Report	794
Exchange Quotations	798
Share Quotations, etc.	800

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

LATEST MAIL DATES.

England	Mar. 24	Hankow	April 27
San Francisco	April 4	Yokohama	" 22
Hongkong	" 26	Nagasaki	" 27
Tientsin	" 27	Foochow	" 24

Shanghai mail advices of the 13th of Mar. were received in London on the 14th of April.

PRICE OF THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD and S. C. & C. GAZETTE.—Per Annum, Tels 12; Six Months, Tels 6.50. Three Months, 3.50—all payable in advance. Credit price, Tls. 13.15 per Annum. Subscriptions will be considered as renewed unless notice to the contrary be given before the expiry of the current term.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS received, and Single Copies sold, by Messrs. STREET & Co., 30, Cornhill,

LONDON (E.C.)

The North-China Herald.

IMPERIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, MONDAY, MAY 1, 1899.

THE SADDLES.

We have already had unmistakable hints that the hot weather is not far off, and those who do not realise that the most comfortable spot in the summer is one's own house with all its congenial amenities and plenty of ice, are thinking of Chefoo and Peitaiho, Kuling and Mohkanshan, the mountains of Japan, or even the distant but alluring Banff. There is one thing to be said for the companies whose steamers sail in and out of Shanghai, that they do do their best by inordinate charges to discourage people from deserting the Model Settlement. There are drawbacks to all the summer resorts we have named; Chefoo is very dull, in fact, the only attraction it possesses is its sea bathing; Peitaiho is a long way off and is very difficult of access,

while sometimes people who want to get away from it have to swim for it; Kuling is a treeless waste whose only claim to respect is its coolness; while of Mohkanshan we know very little, except that it can only be got at in houseboats and is as yet very much undeveloped. The favourite spots in Japan are dreadfully overcrowded and the innkeepers of that simple paradise have banded themselves together to fleece the visitors; many people too would like to have a little more experience of the working of the revised treaties, and do not feel by any means certain that the abolition there of extra-territoriality will add to the bliss of a holiday in the Japanese hills. Banff is a beautiful place, undoubtedly, but the cost of getting there and back is prohibitive to all but rich people.

Meanwhile there is almost at our doors a spot admirably suited for a summer resort in every way, but most accountably neglected, the Saddle Islands. They are not more than six hours by sea from Woosung, the bathing is perfect, they are not infested with unpleasant natives, and the temperature is about fifteen degrees below that of Shanghai. The fresh breezes from the vast Pacific cool them, for looking eastward, *nihil est nisi pontus et aer* between them and the Pacific Slope. All the steamers going to and from Japan pass within hailing distance, and they are the only available summer resort to which a man can send his family in the summer and run down to see them from Saturday to Monday. They are practically no-man's-land and this makes it difficult to get a title if one wants to build a bungalow; but it is understood that we have in Mr. Bax-Ironside a most capable *Chargé d'Affaires*, and it would be an easy matter for him to persuade the Tsungli Yamén to let the Shanghai Municipality have a lease of the most desirable island on condition that it is not fortified or garrisoned, except possibly by a few policemen at a time requiring change of air, and that it is not converted even into a second-class naval station. It should be understood that only the Municipal Standard should be hoisted on it, though the Chinese Dragon might be hoisted alongside it, as a concession to the *amour propre* of

the Lord of the Soil. It is, as we have said, entirely unaccountable that such an inviting spot with everything provided by nature, including the most perfect sandy beaches, should have been utilised so far for nothing but a lighthouse and a telegraph station. Nearly every summer a steamer is chartered and a small party of weary bill-brokers goes down there for a day or two and comes back entirely rejuvenated and enthusiastic in its praise of the attractions now wasted. Only a little enterprise is wanted to give Shanghai a new sanitarium, cool and refreshing, positively without a drawback, only some six or seven hours from the Bund. We have an energetic Municipal Council, that makes the public health its first care; here is a splendid opportunity for it to supplement its labours and earn the undying gratitude of weary toilers in the summer heat.

Summary of News.

THE French mail of the 25th of March arrived here on the 25th ult. by the M.M.S. *Indus*.

THE American mail of the 4th of April arrived here on the 28th ult. by the U.S.M.S. *Doric*.

A MAIL leaves to-morrow afternoon for Europe by the M.M.S. *Ernest Simons*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

SUPPLIED THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY
EXCLUSIVELY TO THE "NORTH-CHINA
DAILY NEWS."

London, 24th April.

THE LU-HAN RAILWAY LOAN.

The Chinese Loan has been nearly twice covered in France and in Belgium.

THE PACIFICATION OF LUZON.

The Americans are forming a flying squadron at the beginning of the new campaign, with the object of clearing the Filipinos from the jungle to the north of Manila.

FRANCE AND SIAM.

The *Figaro* states that an agreement has been effected between the King of Siam and M. Doumer, the Governor-General of French Indo-China, providing that a French staff will be employed on the Public Works, and the French language will be taught. The question about Luang Phrabang has been satisfactorily settled.

THE ORPHANED HOUSE.

The death is announced of the Right Hon. Sir John Robert Mowbray, Bart., the Father of the House of Commons.

[Sir J. R. Mowbray, Bart., P.C., D.C.L., J.P., D.L., H.P., whose original name was Cornish, was born at Exeter on the 3rd of June, 1815. He was member for the City of Durham from 1853 to 1868, and has represented the University of Oxford in the Conservative interest since 1868.—Ed. N.-C. D. News.]

London 25th April.

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AMERICANS AND THE GERMANS AT MANILA.

A sensation has been caused in the United States by the speeches of Captain Coghlan of the U. S. cruiser *Raleigh* repeating and accentuating the menacing messages sent by Admiral Dewey to the German Admiral at the time of the battle of Manila.

Captain Coghlan has been rebuked and ordered to return to his ship immediately.

IRISH SELF-GOVERNMENT.

The first meetings of the new Irish County Councils took place on Saturday, and many of them passed Resolutions in favour of Home Rule and the establishment of a Roman Catholic University.

London, 26th April.

THE INDISCREET ORATOR.

The German Ambassador to the United States has strongly protested against Captain Coghlan's speech.

The Hon. John Hay, U.S. Secretary of State, has expressed his disapproval, and has intimated that the U. S. Admiralty will take action in the matter.

The German Press is moderate in tone, treating the speech as a post-prandial oration.

Captain Coghlan, at the same banquet, recited a coarse ballad about the Kaiser, which the Ambassador disdains to notice.

PREPARATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, in defending the vote for barracks in South Africa, stated that the enormous increase of the offensive or defensive forces in the Transvaal formed the sole reason for increasing the British garrison.

London 27th April.

THE INDISCREET ORATOR.

Captain Coghlan has written to the U. S. Admiralty disavowing any intention of insulting the Kaiser or Admiral Diederichs.

THE PROGRESS OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Experiments which have been made in the Straits of Dover have demonstrated that Marconi is able to localise wireless telegraphy and to communicate with any desired ship or point to the exclusion of others in the vicinity.

JAPAN UNDER THE REVISED TREATIES.

The Right Hon. St. John Brodrick, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, speaking in the House of Commons, stated that Japan had given assurances regarding reforms in the Press Law and restrictions upon foreigners generally.

He said there was no reason to fear that British subjects would not be fairly treated when the new Treaties were enforced.

THE GUINEAS.

The result of the Two Thousand Guinea Stakes is as follows:—

The Duke of Westminster's *Flying Fox*..... 1
Lord W. Beresford's *Caiman*..... 2
Mr. Leopold de Rothschild's *Trident* 3

London, 28th April.

THE ALL-BRITISH PACIFIC CABLE.

The *Times* states that the Government has decided to contribute a yearly subsidy of the full amount recommended by the Cable Committee as a guarantee for the construction of the all-British Pacific cable.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY DOES NOT WANT A PIECE.

Speaking in the Hungarian Diet, the Premier stated that there was no present intention to secure territory in China.

THE COPPER BOOM.

The enormous rise in the Copper Market is due to an American ring which is dislocating the trade.

COMING TO TERMS ALL ROUND.

Speaking at Birmingham at a banquet of Mechanical Engineers, the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, First Lord of the Admiralty, said the appearance of Europe was much more tranquil now than a few months ago, as Great Britain had made friendly settlements with Germany and France, and he hoped we were making one with Russia.

MORE FIGHTING IN SAMOA.

There has been renewed fighting at Apia between large bodies of friendlies and rebels.

London, 29th April.

THE INDISCREET ORATOR.

Captain Coghlan has been reprimanded, and the incident is now closed.

A FATAL CYCLONE IN MISSOURI.

A cyclone has taken place at Kirksville and Newton, Missouri, which destroyed four hundred houses in Kirksville. It is believed that 75 lives have been lost and 1,000 persons injured.

THE YOUNG LIONS IN THE OLD HOME.

The New South Wales Lancers have arrived and marched through London on their way to Aldershot. They met with a splendid reception.

THE LADIES' RACE.

The result of the "One Thousand Guineas" Stakes is as follows:—

Mr. P. Lorillard's *Sibola* 1
" Arthur James' *Fascination* 2
" Douglas Baird's *Musa* ... 3

Later.

THE AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA.

The *Morning Post* learns from St. Petersburg that the Agreement between Great Britain and Russia with regard to railways in China was signed yesterday.

Russia binds herself not to attempt to obtain or assist another Power in

obtaining railway or similar concessions in the Yangtze Valley, and Great Britain gives a similar pledge in regard to Manchuria.

Existing enterprises in both spheres of interest are safeguarded.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Hongkong, 30th April.

PROGRESS OF THE U. S. ARMS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

General Luna's army surrendered to General Macarthur on Friday last.

The insurgents ask for an armistice of three weeks in order to hold a meeting to arrange terms. General Otis insists on unconditional surrender.

A MELANCHOLY REPORT.

It is feared that the cutter of the U. S. cruiser *Charleston*, with fifteen men, has been sunk near Iloilo by the insurgent fire.

AMERICA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

(Special Telegram from the China Mail, Correspondent.)

Manila, 24th April.

The Americans have commenced extensive operations against the Filipinos in the country surrounding Manila.

General Lawton's division has advanced to the hills beyond Novaliches, clearing the country all around.

Another flying column in command of General Macarthur had a sharp skirmish at Quingua, to the east of Malolos.

Colonel Stotzenberg and several others were killed.

THE Director of Sicawei Observatory reports: Monday, 24th April, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 23rd.*—A belt of high pressures over Central Siberia between two deep depressions, the one over the N.W. of Siberia and the other over Yesso. Area of moderately high readings over the Eastern Sea and the S.W. of Japan; a minimum W. of Shanghai. *State on the morning of the 24th.*—The glass has continued to rise slowly. The western depression seems to be in a state of formation. *Probabilities, 5.45 p.m.*—Unsettled weather. Light unsteady winds along the whole coast. — Tuesday, 25th April, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 24th.*—High readings over Saghalien Island. Depression over the Gulf of Pechili; a system of higher pressures at the mouth of the Yangtze-kiang. *State on the morning of the 25th.*—The barometer continues to rise slowly. *Probabilities, 6 p.m.*—Fine weather, light variable breezes along the N. coast, and moderate N.E. winds in the S. — Wednesday, 26th April, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 25th.*—A wide system of low pressures over Siberia. Two areas of higher readings, the one over Japan and the other in the N.W. of China. *State on the morning of the 26th.*—The glass continues to rise slowly. *Probabilities, 5.45 p.m.*—Fine weather. Light breezes from the S. quadrant along the N. coast, and moderate N.E. winds in the S. — Thursday, 27th April, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 26th.*—Area of high pressure lying over the lower Yangtze. Low pressures over Siberia. *State on the morning of the 27th.*—Barometer beginning to fall. The high pressures slowly shifting in an Easterly direction. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—The weather will still keep fine. Light breezes from the S. quadrant along the N. coast, and moderate N.E. winds in the S. — Friday, 23th April, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 27th.*—

The area of high pressures, that spread yesterday over the Lower Yangtze has remained almost stationary and seems to be dispersing without any movement of translation. The barometer is everywhere falling. *State on the morning of the 28th.*—The barometer continues to fall. *Probabilities, 5.45 p.m.*—The weather will still keep fine. Light breezes from the S. quadrant along the N. coast, and moderate N.E. winds in the S. — Saturday, 29th April, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 28th.*—The high pressure area previously reported on the Lower Yangtze continues to be dispersing, motionless but becoming broader. A rather hollow depression over the N. of the Sea of Japan. *State on the morning of the 29th.*—The glass is rising at Shanghai. Sunday, 30th April, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 29th.*—A depression to the S.E. of Saghalien. The area of high pressures lingering over the Lower Yangtze and becoming still broader has spread over the whole of China, the Yellow Sea, and the Sea of Japan. *State on the morning of the 30th.*—The barometer is falling noticeably at Shanghai. There is some appearance of a depression in the West. *Probabilities, 5.45 p.m.*—The barometer has fallen everywhere in China. The gradient is very slight. Light winds from the E. quadrant may be expected along the coast.

THE average minimum of the thermometer in the Settlement in April was 50°.28, the average maximum 63°.43, and the mean 56°.86, against 49°.46, 63°.87, and 56°.66, respectively, in April 1898. The rainfall in April was 2.71 inches, and rain fell measurably on 10 days, against 5.41 inches and 12 days in April 1898, and an average of 3.45 inches and 11½ days for the seventeen years 1882-1898.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

(Thermometers in the open air in a shaded situation in the English Settlement.)

1899.				
	Fahr.	Thermometer.		Rainfall in inches.
		Min.	Max.	
April 24		56°.5	66°.0	0.01
" 25		57°.9	76°.1	.....
" 26		55°.3	74°.5	.....
" 27		55°.0	74°.0	.....
" 28		53°.6	73°.8	.....
" 29		55°.7	75°.0	.....
" 30		55°.0	68°.0	0.29
1898.				
	Fahr.	Thermometer.		Rainfall in inches.
		Min.	Max.	
April 24		52°.5	63°.1	0.06
" 25		52°.1	57°.0	0.06
" 26		51°.5	55°.7	0.15
" 27		46°.0	56°.5	.....
" 28		43°.0	67°.1	.....
" 29		52°.6	66°.2	1.62
" 30		53°.3	63°.2	1.01

MR. B. C. George Scott, H.M.'s Consul at Tientsin, goes to Canton as Consul-General, and is succeeded at Tientsin by Mr. W. R. Carles.

WE learn that extensive preparations have been made at Hankow for the reception of H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia who was to have arrived in S.M.S. *Gefion* on Friday. The various hongs have been prettily decorated and festoon poles have been planted the whole length of the bund, on the English section of which a large temporary pavilion has been erected. The important function of the Prince's brief visit will be the laying of the first stone of the new German bund, which adjoins the Russian. An extensive programme, including illuminations, has been arranged for the celebration of the event.

ON Friday in H.B.M.'s Supreme Court Sir Nicholas Hannen confirmed the report of the Registrar as to the damage inflicted by the *Cowrie* on the Indo-China Company's steamers *Esang* and *Suiwo*. The Registrar (Mr. E. H. Burrows), sitting with Mr. C. Murray Adamson, of Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., as Assessor, fixed the damages payable by the *Cowrie* at Tls. 29,098.23 with costs.

NEWSPAPERS received by the last French mail contain the preliminary prospectus of the Anglo-French Quicksilver and Mining Concession (Kueichou province) of China, Ltd. This is an international company formed to work a concession, certified by M. Dubail, lately French Consul-General at Shanghai, for a cinnabar mine in Kueichou which is said to be probably the richest in the entire world; and it is stated in the preliminary prospectus that "owing to large French interests connected with this concession, it is anticipated that the political influence of both Russia and France may be safely counted upon to assist the working of the concession." The Charter, Bank of India, etc., and Martin's Bank, Ltd., were to be authorised to receive subscriptions for 130,000 7% cumulative preference shares of £1 each at par.

THE Annual Meeting of the shareholders in the Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company was announced to take place at the head offices of the Company, 50A, Kiangse Road on Thursday afternoon. Messrs. A. McLeod, C. Thorne, E. H. Davis, and T. Wood (Secretary), alone put in an appearance, and, as it required the presence of twenty proprietors to form a quorum the meeting was postponed, after waiting in vain over half-an-hour for a statutory attendance.

THERE was a very large attendance on Wednesday night at the ordinary meeting of the Shanghai Literary and Debating Society in the Royal Asiatic Society's Hall. The President, Mr. Byron Brennan, C.M.G., occupied the chair, and, after a few remarks, introduced the Rev. E. T. Williams, who had promised to lecture on "Idols and Ideals." Mr. Williams commenced by saying that nearly everybody had an idol of some sort, and he went on to show the connection and relationship between idols and ideals. In his customary humorous and racy manner he mentioned different idols fascinating different people, from the theological image—not always in favour of progress and enlightenment—to the political idol, with incidental comments upon the conservatism which frequently impeded national advancement, following these up with interesting allusions, amongst others, to the idols of fashion, wealth, and war, the devotees of which were all animated by intense enthusiasm. He wound up a most interesting discourse by pointing out in contradistinction what worthy ideals there were in the world for men to strive after and attain. The lecture abounded in humorous illustrations and anecdotes and maintained the interest of those present to the last. On the motion of the Rev. J. C. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. J. P. Donovan, a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Williams was adopted, bringing to a close one of the most successful evenings of the Session.

WE learn that the well-known London shipping firm Macgregor, Gow, and Company (Glen Line) intend shortly to conduct their own business in the East.

WE are pleased to learn that an ex-pupil of the Shanghai Public School, Master Willie Davidson, has successfully passed the competitive examination for admittance to Christ's Hospital (Blue Coat School). There were two hundred applicants for only twenty vacancies.

WITH regret we announce the death from hydrophobia of Police Constable Ellefsen which took place at the General Hospital at six o'clock on Monday evening. On the 22nd of March deceased was bitten by an undoubtedly rabid dog in the compound at the Hongkew Station. Every precaution possible was taken, and he was never told that it had been proved that the dog was suffering from rabies. Mr. Ellefsen was a native of Germany and had only been some twelve months in the Municipal

service and was greatly respected by all who knew him.

CAPTAINS Pattisson and Mackenzie, and the officers and men of the Shanghai Municipal Police assembled in full dress parade at the General Hospital at half-past four on Tuesday afternoon, the intended annual parade being postponed, to escort the remains of their late comrade P. C. Johannes Edward Ellefsen who died on the previous evening of hydrophobia. The coffin, which was covered with the deceased's national flag and numerous wreaths from his *confrères* and private friends, was placed on a gun-carriage drawn by four ponies and the route to the cemetery was lined with Sikhs. At the gates the *cortège* was met by Pastor Hackmann who led the procession into the small chapel where the first part of the Lutheran burial service was read in German, the reading being concluded at the grave. A number of civilians also met at the grave side to pay the last token of respect to the deceased who both privately and publicly was much esteemed.

It is proposed to hold the Spring Rifle Competition for the S.V.C. on somewhat different lines than have hitherto obtained. There will be the usual number of competitions, but it is intended that they shall be fired, if possible, on two days from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The dates mentioned as probable are from the 20th to the 22nd inst. A sub-committee of the Musketry Board is engaged in drawing up the necessary programme.

In another page will be found the first two of a series of very interesting articles by Sir Richard Temple, Bart., on the House of Commons.

We know that things are stereotyped in China, but it is really remarkable to find an account of an execution at Foochow, which occupies a column of Saturday's *Echo de Chine*, which is almost a word-for-word translation of an account of an execution at Yachou, Szechuan, which appeared in our columns on the 5th of January last.

MR. G. J. T. NEWMAN of the Deluge Fire Company was bitten by a dog on the Race Course, on Saturday, while performing his work with his company in the Shield Competition. The dog had a leather muzzle on and was being led at the same time. Mr. Newman met a doctor and had the wound cauterised immediately and then resumed his duties.

THE 2½-rater *Lorna*, which has the splendid record of having won 28 first, 13 second, and 5 third prizes out of 46 races, and which is still as good as new, was sold by auction on Saturday morning and fetched only Tls. 270. Capt. J. P. Roberts being the purchaser. The *Sybil* (flapper) was also brought to the hammer and was sold for Tls. 250.

At 1 a.m. on the 24th ult. the services of the firemen were called to a fire which had broken out at No. 48, Rue Moulin, French Concession, a house used as a godown for the storage of fire-wood, straw-mats and brooms. The flames spread rapidly and by 3 a.m. when the fire had been overcome some eight houses had been destroyed and a number pulled down to prevent the spread of the conflagration. The origin of the fire is so far unknown as no one was in the house at the time, nor were watchmen kept on the premises. The premises were uninsured.

On Wednesday morning, shortly before two o'clock, a fire, attended with fatal consequences, broke out in a wine shop, No. 54, Rue du Consulat, caused presumably by carelessness in leaving hot ash-*s*. When the alarm was given it was found that the inmates had their retreat cut off from below, and four men jumped from a window. Two of them sustained a fracture of the hip, one was severely bruised, and the

other unhurt. Five houses were destroyed and among the ruins the charred remains of a native lad were discovered. From what can be learned only one of the houses was insured the amount being for Tls. 9,000.

At about 11.30 on Thursday night, a fire broke out in the native city in some houses adjoining the East-gate, and was extinguished by Chinese at 2.30 a.m. on Friday. About forty houses were destroyed. The alarm was not given in the Settlement as the fire was outside the district.

At 11 a.m. on Friday a fire broke out in a native restaurant, 99 Honan Road, through a defective flue in the back part of the premises; it was extinguished by the inmates before any alarm was necessary.

We reproduce this week the admirable cartoon by F. C. Gould in the *Westminster Budget* having reference to the squabble between Great Britain and Russia over the Newchwang Railway.

We learn from the *Echo de Chine* that the incoming French mail will bring a large number of French and Belgian engineers for the Lu-Han Railway, as well as M. Chollot, the French Municipal Engineer.

THE British Post Master really ought to be provided with a sufficient staff. The French Mail, after a run of 49½ hours from Hongkong to Gutzlaff, arrived at the French Bund at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, and only a portion of the mail was delivered before midnight. And we are paying Hongkong 6 cents a half-ounce between that Colony and Shanghai on all our letters inward and outward.

A FATALITY of the most shocking character occurred shortly after half-past five on Tuesday evening, a native carpenter falling from the roof of a building undergoing repairs and occupied by Messrs. Ehlers & Co. Szechuen Road and sustaining such terrible injuries that death ensued before he could be taken to the Shantung Road Hospital. In the fall the unfortunate fellow struck a corrugated iron sheet causing injuries of the most harrowing nature whilst his skull was also fractured.

AN unfortunate accident took place on Monday afternoon whilst the Hongkew Fire Brigade were training for the annual Cup competition. One of the team inadvertently got his hand jammed in the gear of one of the hose-trucks whilst unreeing and received severe injury; three of the fingers on his right hand were badly torn and the first joint of the little finger was so crushed as to necessitate amputation. Regarding the Cup competition we learn that, up to the present, the Mih-ho-loongs have made the best time.

The local mandarins have received on Monday news from Germany that the German Government are sending four torpedo-boats to China to strengthen their squadron in the Far East.

A PEKING dispatch states that Yü Hsion, the new Governor of Shantung, has recently memorialised the Empress Dowager upon the state of affairs in his province, and volunteers, if given a free hand, to "better matters and make the name of China more respected in Shantung in the future."

It is stated from Wuchang that an Imperial Edict has been received by Viceroy Chang commanding him to have ready within three months from the present 30,000 repeating rifles, to be made, as many as possible, by the small-arms factory at the Hanyang Ironworks. These arms are for Jung Lu's troops at Peking.

BARON LI, the new Taotai, returned from Soochow on Saturday. He will probably move into his *yamen*, from his temporary quarters at the Chingyi College, some time during the latter part of this week. This delay is due to the necessity of repainting and refitting the *yamen* to the taste of its new occupant.

WITH reference to the question whether a special Taotai, as at other Treaty ports, should be created to superintend the I. M. Customs in the newly-opened port of Nanking, a Peking dispatch received yesterday states that the Empress Dowager has formally approved of the Viceroy Liu's suggestion that the holder of the post of Intendant of the Salt Gabelle of Kiangsu he also made Customs Taotai of Nanking. The first person who is to hold this dual post will therefore be Hu Chia-chen, who is now acting Provincial Treasurer of Kiangning or Upper Kiangsu. Apropos of the new Customs Taotai it is privately stated that Viceroy Liu proposes to allow only Tls. 400 per month to this incumbent, but it must be remembered that out of this amount the Customs Taotai will be expected to pay all the expenses of the *yamen*, such as the salaries of secretaries, deputies, runners, etc., which will, of course, leave but little for the Taotai himself to live on, in which case the old system will have to be reverted to, in order to allow this official to live. And yet people expect to see honest officials among the mandarins! Under the present system this is obviously impossible. The new Customs Taotai-designate we hear understands this and in refusing to accept the small allowance proposed by Viceroy Liu explained to H.E. the evils of such a course.

We are indebted to a prominent retired Chinese official, now living here, for the following news received by him from a nephew who is an official in Kashgaria:—A force of Cossacks from the Russian side of the frontier tried on the 3rd of April to cross the Chakmak Pass, but were successfully opposed by a squadron of Chinese and Burut Khirghiz troopers. After several hours' desultory firing the Cossacks recrossed to their own side, just as two mountain guns brought up from the fort ten miles to the east, began to fire on them. Reinforcements are urgently needed both in Kashgaria as well as in Ili. Great anxiety is being felt about the present state of affairs in the New Dominion. The Taotai and the General commanding here (Kashgar city) have jointly petitioned Governor Jao that they refuse to accept responsibility in suppressing outbreaks amongst the Mahomedans here unless reinforcements be promptly sent to them. At least 5,000 infantry and 3,000 cavalry are required at once. They are all horsemen in this part of the country, hence the necessity of having strong bodies of cavalry to patrol the disaffected districts. Chakmak is a pass leading from Pamir into the Yengishar district.

ACCORDING to our native correspondent at Peking, China is now ruled by two Manchus—namely, the Grand Secretary Jung Lu and the Assistant Grand Secretary Kang Yi. The Empress Dowager defers implicitly to the advice of these two men, who are clever enough to give the credit and responsibility of all their decisions to the Empress Dowager. The great ambition of Jung Lu is to be proclaimed Grand Generalissimo of the forces of the whole Empire and he has been working his best to bring the 70,000 or 80,000 men under his special command in Chihli province up to the best state possible, as far as within him lies, in regard to modern equipments and discipline. Hence he does not often interfere in purely civil departmental matters, these being generally left to Kang Yi, who has the reputation of being a bigot and the bitterest enemy of the Reform Party. Jung Lu, who is more of a soldier, being the nearest living relation of the Empress Dowager has naturally the most influence over her. He is much less of a bigot and has hitherto always counselled moderation and effectually prevented the sword and fire policy of Kang Yi against the Reform Party—and against all foreigners, for that matter. Jung Lu, therefore, possesses more popularity

amongst the masses than any half-a-dozen mandarins put together in Peking.

DISPATCHES recently received from Tihua—better-known to geographers as Urumtsi—the capital of Chinese Turkestan, report that Chang Yin-huan, the cashiered Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, was expected in that city from Hami, the first large Turkish city after leaving the Great Wall, some time during the middle of the present month of April. Further that, instead of being ordered to work on the military post roads between Tihua and Kuldja, as at first commanded, the latest edict of the Empress Dowager concerning ex-Vice President Chang is that he is to be imprisoned at Tihua until further orders. Judging from the barefaced manner in which bribes are demanded by those who just now "run things" in the Empress Dowager's Palace, one cannot help wondering how many tons of thousands of taels were paid by the family of Chang Yin-huan in order to procure the edict exempting the aged ex-official from working as a convict on the military postroads, among the mountains of the Tien-shan or Celestial range, leading from Urumtsi to Kuldja. This, perhaps, is the first time in the history of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George in which a holder of the Grand Cross of the Order has been made a felon and driven into banishment; this high distinction having been bestowed upon Chang Yin-huan in 1897, when he represented his now equally unfortunate Imperial master Kuang Hsi at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. If indeed, there were no other excuse for interfering during the coup d'état of September last, this fact alone could have been sufficient for the Minister of Great Britain to prevent this disgrace to an exalted order of his country.

AN Edict of the 23rd ult. with reference to the proposed conservation of the Yellow River, approves of the recommendation of the Board of Revenue to move the inhabitants living in the vicinity of the proposed works to some higher ground, some distance away, in order to leave the reclamation districts clear, and that the sum of Tls. 400,000 be transmitted before the middle of May next to the Governor of Shantung, for the purpose of purchasing sites for building houses as well as arable land for the people transported in this connection. Further, that another sum of Tls. 600,000 be paid to the said Governor before the middle of July next to be used in the purchase of materials for the proposed works. These two sums, which will aggregate one million taels, are to be drawn without delay and transmitted at the appointed dates to their destination by the various Viceroy's of provinces from their respective reserve funds by law established. Any delay in sending said amount will be punished with a double penalty, as this is a matter which concerns the safety of the lives of millions of the inhabitants of the province of Shantung. Similar punishments will also be given to such officials as are entrusted with the purchase of land for the transport of inhabitants and for materials, who shall be found to have been guilty of dishonesty. As soon as the above-noted purchases have been made the Board of Revenue undertakes to have ready the balance of two million taels required for the preliminary conservation works as reported upon by Li Hung-chang and his colleagues.

THE following edict concerning the conservation of the Yellow River was issued by the Empress Dowager on the 16th ult.:—I have received the joint report of the Grand Council, the Six Boards, and the Nine Ministries ordered the other to day deliberate over the joint memorial of Li Hung-chang, Jen Tuo-yang (Director-General of the Yellow River), and Chang Ju-mei (Governor of Shantung), asked as to what should be done for the conservation of

the Yellow River. The Prince of Li, who heads the said joint report, concedes the fact that the remedial measures suggested by Li Hung-chang and his colleagues are to the point, in which they have divided the work to be done on the Yellow River under two heads, namely, the entire conservation thereof striking at the root of the matter, and temporary measures suggested by the urgency of the moment. The Prince of Li therefore prays that all the suggestions recommended by Li Hung-chang, etc., be accepted, and that the Board of Revenue be commanded to raise the necessary funds for the purpose. As the conservation of the Yellow River is one of extreme urgency, owing to the devastations caused by it to the people of Shantung, it is, of course, necessary to begin the work without loss of time. As the temporary measures suggested by Li Hung-chang are but the preliminaries of the permanent works, the first-named should be proceeded with at once, and the Board of Revenue is hereby commanded to raise the funds required as they are called for, and it is to report first upon the ways and means for obtaining these funds. The conservation of the river being one in which the lives of our people in Shantung and elsewhere are intimately concerned, there must be no delay in raising the money required for the work, and the said Board is prohibited from leaving the onus upon the various provincial Viceroy's and Governors to procure the funds, thereby endangering the project by delay. But as to the request that a high officer be appointed to superintend the above works, this can be delayed until the Board of Revenue shall have raised the necessary funds.

THE *Catania*, Capt. L. E. Müller, belonging to Messrs. Rob. M. Sloman and Co., Hamburg, and which is the pioneer vessel sailing under the flag of the United States, China, and Japan Steamship Company, has made an exceptionally smart run to Japan, coastwise, and back. The steamer left Shanghai on the morning of the 9th inst. with about 1,000 tons of New York cargo on board, discharged the same at Kobe and Yokohama, returned to Kobe and took in 3,000 tons of coast cargo, then coaled at Moji, and arrived at the Woosung Bar too late for the tide at 5 p.m. on Monday the 24th, thus completing the round voyage of 2,246 miles, with four ports, in fifteen and a-half days.

H.M.S. *Esk* was at Hankow on the 24th ult.

THE German flagship *Deutschland* arrived at Woosung from Nanking on Thursday morning, and left Woosung on Saturday for Kioochou, and the *Prinzess Wilhelm* and *Kaiser* are leaving for Germany immediately.

THE German cruiser *Prinzess Wilhelm*, which arrived at Woosung on Friday afternoon from Kioochou, having filled her bunkers, will leave this afternoon or tomorrow morning for Singapore en route for home.

THE P. & O. S. *Parramatta*, with the London mail of the 31st of March, left Hongkong at 10 a.m. on the 29th ult. for Shanghai. She brings 1,276 chests of Malwa opium, 4,429 bales of Bombay yarn, and 2,400 bales of Bombay cotton.

THE N.-D.L.S. *Prinz Heinrich* arrived at Hongkong on Tuesday morning.

THE N.-D.L.S. *Prussien*, Capt. Heintze, left Singapore on Thursday at 9 a.m. carrying the Imperial German mail, dated Berlin the 3rd of April.

THE R.M.S. *Empress of China* arrived at Vancouver on Tuesday, the 25th ult., at 6 a.m.

THE following coasting steamers were loading rice at Wuhu on the 26th ult., *Ebani*, *Fooksang*, *Wuhu*, and *Foochow*.

It is reported that the steamer *Arratoon* *Apar*, 1,392 tons Reg., built in 1873 for

the Hongkong-Calcutta trade, was recently bought as old iron by a Chinese Syndicate for \$36,000. They are now so satisfied with her condition that they have decided to put her in the Old Dock where some slight alterations and general repairs will be executed, after which she will be engaged South in the coal trade.

THE silk which was shipped from here on the 24th Feb., per s.s. *Glenogle* arrived in New York on the 22nd ult.

WE have received from Messrs. Doney and Moller, the auditors, a neat pamphlet giving the report and accounts of the Astor House Hotel, Ltd., Tientsin, with the minutes of the second annual meeting of shareholders, held on the 13th ult. The shareholders have reason to be well satisfied with the working of their property.

WE have received the May issue of *The Child's Paper*, issued by the Chinese Tract Society. The antiquity of the illustrations adds greatly to the interest of these publications.

WE have received from Messrs. James Carter & Co., of High Holborn, a parcel of well-illustrated literature dealing with garden seeds and farm seeds. There is much useful reading in the *Garden Notes for the Colonies and Abroad*, with a brief description of the countries of the world from the horticultural standpoint.

WE have received from Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., the agents, a parcel of calendars for 1899 issued by the State Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., of Liverpool, the capital of which is one million pounds sterling.

WE have received from Mr. E. W. Tisdall, the general agent, the report for 1898 of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. The total income for the year was \$8516,166, and the total outgoings \$8290,881, while the total assets on the 31st of December last were \$81,522,872, the surplus on policyholders' account being \$8159,402.

WE have received from Mr. J. A. Ballard, the agent, the report for 1898 of the World Marine Insurance Co., Ltd. Profit and Loss Account shows a credit balance of £10,248, including interest on, and profit on realisation of investments, out of which a dividend is declared of 5 per cent., absorbing £3,006. The underwriting account for 1898 shows a net premium income of £212,471, and claims paid to 31st December last £72,218. The total assets at the end of last year were £200,154.

WE have received from Messrs. Reiss & Co., the agents, a magnificent Chinese calendar in colours issued by the Law Union & Crown Insurance Co., and the Report of the Company for 1898. The income of the Life Department was £509,247 and the outgoings of every description were £347,382; in the Fire Department the net premia were £137,909, and the outgoings £105,609; in the Accident Department, which was only instituted in May, the premia amounted to £8,698, and the outgoings to £3,917. A dividend for the year was declared at the rate of 45 per cent, the total assets of the Company on the 31st of December last amounting to £4,350,202.

THE first report of the London Mission Hospital at Wuchang issued since the institution was re-opened two years ago, is an interesting little brochure. Dr. Cecil J. Davenport, under whose charge the work has been carried on by reason of his experience in Chungking is able to draw comparisons. He finds the work easier, doubtless due to the "westernising" influence abroad in the city, and, above all, with a healthily built and healthily situated foreign hospital, the work is much more satisfactory. Whilst trying to make the work open and helpful to all, very rightly the institution strives to get all the local support it can, therefore those who are able are asked to pay. "For

attending cases in their own homes a charge of \$10 is made for opium suicides, and \$3 for ordinary cases. On the first visits of out-patients a charge of 40 cash is made, and a calendar showing the days open, and a prescription paper are given. When the latter is filled up, or destroyed, another 40 cash buys a new one. Patients seen out of hours pay 200 cash. All in-patients, who can, prepay the rate of 60 cash a day for their rice." For that sum they get as much rice and vegetables as they can eat, three times a day, and fish and meat once a week. Those who attend to break off the opium habit pay 2,000 cash, and stay in 20 days. These charges certainly seem moderate. Among the notes on "cases" is the following:—No report of this work would be complete without mention of the late Governor's wife—Lady T'an. In one respect she took up much of our time, but on the other hand she gave us much support. Dr. Mackay opened the door of that Yamen, and two "tablets" hang on the hospital walls as memorials of his ability, gifts of the Governor's son. We have constantly gone in and out of the Yamen, treating most members of the family, and especially Lady T'an. She was baptised as a member of the Alliance Mission and there is no doubt Christianity has greatly influenced many members of the family—among them being T'an Sze-tung whose valuable life has so recently been ruthlessly ended by the Empress Dowager. H. E. the Governor kindly wrote a preface in our Chinese subscription book and headed the list with \$100."

Amongst the letters received were the following:—"The bearer.—Chinese inspector for—Yamen who has a part sick. Will you be kind enough and take off his sickness for the sake of Jesus Christ. By your kindly doing him well I hope your name shall ever be respect and honoured by our Chinese." "I hasten to inform you that my wife has at 7 o'clock devoured some opium. Though she has, after drinking some medicine, vomited a great deal of the interior stuffs; yet I am very suspicious that some poison may be still existing in the bosom. I beg that you will be kind enough as to give to the bearer some dissolved substance so as to solve the poisonous existences and oblige."

The report of the China Agency of the British and Foreign Bible Society for 1898 is necessarily a voluminous document, containing as it does extracts from a number of the reports of the Society's representatives and others in the great field within the sphere of their operations. These, as far as possible, are detailed and not too general, though it is obviously impossible by statistics of books sold and circulated, or visits of colporteurs to show the full results of the work. Generally, the Rev. G. H. Boudfield, the agent, is able to report that the year was one of exceptional opportunity. In Manchuria and Mongolia, in Formosa and Hainan, as well as in several of the provinces the work has been developed or strengthened, whilst the occupation of Manila by the U.S. troops enabled the Society to recommence, in a tentative way, its operations in the Philippines. It is not surprising therefore that once again a gratifying advance in all departments has to be recorded. Over one million volumes were sent out during the year—the exact figures being 1,033,715, or 271,814 more than the total of the previous year. In the issues to other Agencies and Societies, there is an advance from 46,671 to 97,325 copies—an advance more than accounted for by the larger supplies sent to Malaysia and Corea. In the Scriptures issued to sub-agents and correspondents there is an increase of 118,661 copies. The number of books received from the press was 944,226, an increase of 229,077 volumes. A comparison with the figures for 1897 shows a decrease of 1,229

Bibles, but an increase in Testaments and portions of 37,682 and 192,624 respectively. Of the portions, 658,115 were gospels and other New Testament books. The calendars also show an increase of 17,229 copies. Expended in pages, the printing for the year reaches the large total of 158,043,966.

We have received from the American Waltham Watch Co., of Waltham, Mass., a beautifully printed and illustrated pamphlet describing these well-known watches.

The three principal prizes for April of the Loteria de Juarez, Mexico, drawn on the 26th inst., fell to Nos. 7,210, 851, and 22,898, respectively.

The stamp-collecting mania rages in the U.S. Post Office. Much of the mail matter that reached us on Saturday by the *Doric* had the postage stamps torn off the covers, and evidently not accidentally.

We have received the *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 22nd inst.—The Astor House Hotel, Ltd., pays a dividend of 12 per cent per annum.—The *P. & T. Times* says in a leading article in reference to the Peking Syndicate:—"Much satisfaction is expressed both here and at home at the appointment of Mr. Geo. Jamieson, late Consul-General in Shanghai, as a member of the Peking Syndicate Board of Directors, as the advice of a man of such experience of China cannot be otherwise than valuable to the Syndicate, while it is a guarantee to many that the enterprise is being conducted on sound and practical principles. Li Hung-chang has always shown a very keen interest in the Syndicate's work, and has lately given a fresh proof of his faith in its prospects by investing some \$40,000 in deferred shares in the Company. Before the close of the year we may expect the operations of the Syndicate to assume very definite proportions, and it will be distinctly advantageous when active operations begin, as there are so many embryo investments on the board that British capitalists are surely in need of the positive encouragement afforded by ocular demonstration."—The Belgian Minister left Peking on his way home on the 21st.—Warren's Circus is expected shortly in Tientsin.

We have received Hongkong papers to the 26th ult.—The *Hongkong Daily Press* says that the *Hongkong Muru* (which was to have left here for San Francisco on the 29th inst.) has been withdrawn from the berth.—Mr. Birket Foster, the artist, has died at the age of 74.—H.M.S. *Swift* arrived at Hongkong from Pagoda Anchorage on the 20th.—The new German gunboat *Illis* for this station arrived at Ceylon on the 4th ult.—Three farmers and a tinsmith who were captured on the Kowloon hinterland were brought up at the Hongkong magistracy on the 25th, charged with rebelling against the Queen. Their case was remanded till to-morrow.—Sir Claude Macdonald was unable to receive visitors during his stay at Hongkong.—The Straits Chinese propose to amalgamate their shipping interests in opposition to the new German syndicate.—The business people of Manila are rapidly becoming reconciled to the new Government, and up to date 141 vessels have been transferred to the American flag, many of them having been given new American or English names.—A Chinaman who had posted up the Governor of Hongkong's proclamation at Pingshan in the Kowloon hinterland was set upon by a crowd of persons and severely beaten. He was then placed against a wall and fired at, his diabolical tormentors, however, with a view to prolonging his agony, taking care not to shoot him in any vital part. He was then put in a crate in which the Chinese carry pigs, thrown into the river and drowned, the crate and the body being subsequently recovered by the troops.

"An intelligent Chinese" gives the *Hongkong Daily Press* the following account

of the trouble on the Kowloon Extension:—"In the district that has been ceded to Great Britain the Chinese Government interfered very little with the people, and the poorer classes were practically not taxed at all. The only tax levied was one of ten to fifteen cents per *mo* per annum, on the rice fields. There has been no house tax. Many of the people are engaged in the manufacture of salt, which they have been in the habit of smuggling to Canton. With the coming of the British they fear that this smuggling trade will come to an end, and that they will have to pay duty on their salt; also that a house tax and other imposts will be levied. The wealthier people are not opposed to the British, but many of the poorer classes and all those concerned in the salt industry are. They say they know their existence is at stake and they must make a fight for it. Tungkun men have been engaged to help them, because the men of that district are the best fighters."

The *Hongkong Daily Press* says:—

Messrs. Dodwell & Co., Limited, General Agents of the Northern Pacific Steamship Co., inform us that they have received the following cable from Tacoma:—

"The steamer *Glenogle* sailed on the 23rd instant. She has been in collision with the steamer *City of Kingston*. The *City of Kingston* foundered. The *Glenogle* is damaged and is likely to be delayed."

We understand that the repairs to the *Glenogle* are likely to occupy twenty days.

The *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 24th ult., says:—

So energetically has the work of dispersing the rebels been carried out since Monday last that the disturbances in the hinterland are now practically over. Most of the men of the Hongkong Regiment have returned to Hongkong, but some 300 troops have been left in the market town of Pingsan, as, of course, it would not be safe to withdraw them all as yet. In this village were posted, on some of the locked doors, papers on which were written words to the effect that the village was friendly to the English.

On Saturday another party of police, in charge of Captain-Superintendent May, left for the hinterland. The party, which is to be stationed at Untoong, on the Deep Bay side of the peninsula, consisted of Sergeants Scott and McHardy, Constables Gerrard and Lamont, and 20 Indians.

The *Hongkong Daily Press* is responsible for the following:—

A report is in circulation to the effect that on the 10th April, that is, one week prior to the date originally appointed for the hoisting of the British flag at Taihu, the Viceroy of Canton sent to Mr. Mansfield, the British Consul, a dispatch notifying his intention to oppose the taking over of the new territory. It is incredible that the Viceroy should have used any such expression as "oppose," as that would have been equivalent to a threat of war, but the report is categorical on the point that, on or about the date named, an important dispatch was received by the Consul with reference to the subject that has recently caused so much commotion. What were the contents of the dispatch? That question is not likely to be answered locally, but it might be worth the while of the China Association to take steps to have the question asked in the House of Commons some time before the end of the session.

We have received Corea and Japan papers with dates from Seoul to the 20th, Yokohama the 22nd, Kobe the 25th, and Nagasaki the 27th ult.—There has been another Cabinet change in Corea, and Lady On's chance of being made Empress is not so good as it was.—The Yokohama United Club property, with the buildings on it, has been sold for 90,000 yen.—Marquis Ito was summoned to the Palace

on the 15th.—News had been received of the death in the Philippines of Captain L. B. Walls, lately Depot Superintendent of the P.M.S.S. Co. at Yokohama.—It is contemplated to remove the old castle gates of Tokio, as they are a great danger to wheel traffic.—Viscount Aoki is expected to give up the Foreign portfolio, and there is much speculation as to his successor.—The N.Y.K.'s European liners are to call at London both ways in future, running alternately with the P. & O. intermediate boats.—The marriage of Miss May Wheeler on the 19th to Mr. G. C. Murray of the Hongkong Bank is fully described.—The steamer *Admiral Mori* caught fire while loading cotton at Hiogo on the 16th and had to be towed into shallow water off the mouth of the Minatogawa and scuttled.—Mr. A. C. Sim's steam yacht *Snowflake* was stranded in the Inland Sea on the 17th, when in charge of a Japanese pilot. No lives were lost.—The German 4-master *Peter Rickmers* has just made a record run of 122 days from Philadelphia to Kobe.—The exchange of the iron of China for the coke of Japan has been satisfactorily arranged by Mr. Wada.—Japan is buying half a million tons of Californian iron ore.—The plague in Formosa has extended to Taipei.—The St. George's Ball at Kobe on the 21st was a great success.—The *Snowflake* was got off the reef uninjured and arrived safely at Miyajima.—A new morning paper, the *Kobe Daily News*, is to make its appearance there on the 1st of May.—Mr. Hirai of the Japanese Consulate at Chemulpo killed himself accidentally with his own gun on the 16th ult. while shooting snipe.—The Japanese cruiser *Chitose*, built at San Francisco, arrived at Yokohama on the 20th. Her armament, from Armstrongs', will be placed in her at Yokosuka.—Considerable difficulty has been experienced in docking the *Victorious* at Yokosuka.—Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. are to open a branch at Nagasaki to-day.

The following telegrams are from the *Kobe Chronicle* :—

Tokio, 19th April.

It is stated that the Premier, together with Count Matsugata and Count Kaba-yama, are anxious that Count Inouye should accept the Foreign Portfolio. Marquis Ito also supporting the proposal. But in view of the bad feeling between Count Inouye and the Liberals, the appointment has been delayed. Endeavours are being made to reconcile Count Inouye and the Liberal party.

Mr. Otani, the Chairman of the Central Board of Tea Guilds, has received a reply to his telegram protesting against the proposed imposition of a tax on tea by Canada. It runs as follows :—"Your telegram of the 12th inst. was received by the Governor-General, who submitted it to the various Ministers for consideration."

19th April.

A telegram has reached the Government giving a sketch of the negotiations which have been in progress between Count Muravieff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Sir Nicholas O'Connor, K.C.B., the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg. Great Britain and Russia recently entered upon these negotiations to arrive at an understanding with a view to removing the differences between the two countries in East Asia.

Great Britain proposes (1) That the central part of China south of the Yellow Sea (including the Yangtze Valley) be included in the sphere of British influence; (2) That Newchwang be made a free port, being excluded from the sphere of either country.

Russia proposes that the Yellow River should form the boundary between the spheres of influence of the two countries, and opposes Newchwang being made a free port, on the ground that the territory north of the Yellow River is within the Russian sphere of influence.

It is presumed that a satisfactory settlement of the negotiations will prove very difficult.

The amendments to the Law of the Houses in the Diet, by which the salaries of members of the Diet have been raised, were promulgated to-day in the *Official Gazette*.

The salary of the Presidents of both Houses is raised to 5,000 yen (from 4,000 yen), that of the Vice-Presidents to 3,000 yen (from 2,000 yen), and that of ordinary members to 2,000 yen (from 800 yen).

Peking, 19th April.

The Italian marines for the protection of the Italian Legation here were withdrawn this morning. The only foreign soldiers remaining here are Germans.

Tokio, 20th April.

The Chinese Government recently opened negotiations with the Russian Government through the Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg to obtain redress for the shooting of Chinese peasants by Russian soldiers at Liaotung. It is reported that Count Muravieff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed the Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg that the Russian Government would not consent to the Chinese demand even if Chinese men-of-war appeared in the Baltic and Chinese troops at St. Petersburg. The Chinese Minister immediately telegraphed the reply to the Peking Government, but received instructions from the Empress Dowager to continue the negotiations.

The application of Count Tokugawa Atsumori to resign his title of nobility was granted to-day.

[Count Tokugawa Atsumori has been involved in financial difficulties for some time, and was even charged with fraud. The family of the Count is very high, bearing the title of Shimizu, and being one of the three houses of the Tokugawa family originally entitled to succeed to the Shogunate.—*Ed. K.O.*]

Mr. Tsuzuki, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been released from office at his own request. He was appointed a member of the House of Peers a few days ago.

21st April.

About three years ago, Messrs. Bandinel & Co. (an English firm at Newchwang) leased from a Chinese named Wang a coal mine situated 65 Chinese miles east of Liaoyang, and have been working it in the name of Fucheng & Co. Last December Messrs. Bandinel & Co., leased five other mines. Recently, however, as the result of the demands made by Mr. Taruman (J), a Russian railway engineer, on the Fengtien Tartar General, the leases of all the mines rented by Messrs. Bandinel & Co. have been ordered to be returned. The matter is now in the hands of the British Consul.

Peking, 21st April.

The German troops who occupied Ichou have been withdrawn, but 120 men remain at Jihchao.

Germany contemplates appointing a German adviser to the Governor-General of Shantung, and it is surmised that this is preliminary to Germany's obtaining executive control over the province.

Saigon, 21st April.

A small American force has fallen into an ambush, and 140 men were captured by the Filipinos.

Tokyo, 22nd April.

Mr. Nosse telegraphs from Ottawa that the British Columbian Government has again been advised by the Dominion Government to withdraw the laws discriminating against Japanese that were recently adopted. In case the Columbian Government refuses to do so, the Bills will be disallowed. The members representing British Columbia in the Dominion Parliament have brought forward a Bill prohibiting the immigration of people unable to write any European language. It is considered unlikely that the Bill will be passed.

The Government has decided to appoint Mr. Takahira, at present Japanese Minister at Vienna, as Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

FROM Nagasaki papers to the 24th we learn that two houses on lot 17, Oura, Nagasaki, were burnt down on the 18th. The buildings and contents were insured.—The *Kasuga Maru*, a steamer belonging to the Sanyo Railway Co., was totally burnt at Bakan on the 18th.—The Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation between China and Corea was signed at Seoul on the 19th.—The *Gaelic* was to be detained a week in quarantine at Nagasaki. The passengers may perhaps be allowed on the quarantine grounds.—The following telegrams are from the *Nagasaki Press* :—

Saigon, 19th April.

The election of Deputies has taken place in Spain. The Government's majority will be 150. Sanguinary riots took place at Bilbao, Valencia, and Tortosa.

20th April.

The Correctional Police have commenced the prosecution of the leagues. Five persons connected with the "League of the Rights of Man" have been sentenced to a fine of sixteen francs.

The *Kobe Chronicle* of the 20th says :—"It is not given to many people to witness their own funerals, although in some cases it is probably the most important event in their career. Mr. K. Kume-kawa, the proprietor of the curio store situated behind the building now occupied by Messrs. McKay & Co., yesterday, however, enjoyed this unique privilege. Mr. Kume-kawa recently reached his seventy-seventh year, an event that was duly celebrated by the family, on which occasion he expressed the opinion that he had lived long enough, and had only one desire—and that was to see his own funeral. In Japan this is not difficult, and accordingly yesterday afternoon a funeral procession started from his house, passed through the streets, was photographed, and took part in a funeral service held in the Kusunoki-dera. After the service all those taking part in the procession took off their mourning dress and proceeded to the Jinko Club, where a ballad concert was held. Mr. Kume-kawa walked in front of his own coffin, and the number of floral offerings from friends was very large. The special feature of the procession was a large number of *geisha*, many of whom came down from Osaka. Mr. Kume-kawa is an expert in *gidayu* singing, and many of his pupils attended his 'funeral.' The Kobe City Band also accompanied the procession, which was witnessed by large crowds of people."

The *Japan Mail* says :—"The sending to Samoa of a special correspondent has enabled the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and through it a wide circle of readers, to get a much clearer and less prejudiced view of the different sides in the Samoan trouble." As a consequence of its enquiries, the Sydney journal alleges that there has been bungling all round. Accounts of Mataafa represent him as an exceptionally strong and capable chief; he pointed out to his interviewer that there was no mention in the Berlin treaty, as circulated in Samoa among the natives, of his being barred from the kingship, while the Germans had assured him that the German objection which had kept him out of it before no longer existed. As for the Chief Justice, Mataafa regarded his decision as a thing opposed to the wish of the majority, and a letter had been circulated which purported to express the agreement of the Chief Justice with Mataafa as king. Malietoa Tanu and his followers, on the other hand, have been badly treated, in the same correspondent's opinion, because the Europeans persuaded them not to arm, and assured them that the Judge's decision would be enforced and that they

would be protected, and neither was done. The kingship is only worth £150 a year, and the conclusion of the *Herald* Commissioner, that the simplest way would be to appoint three 'kings,' over as many districts, suggests a practical solution."

COMMENTING on the financial position of the Phoenix Fire Office, the *London Times* says:—"The report of the Phoenix Assurance Company for the year ended December 31 states that the premiums received during the year, less reinsurance, amount to £1,133,495; the expenses and losses (paid and outstanding) amount to £1,037,677. The result of the year's working, including interest and balance brought forward from the last account, and allowing for interim dividend, and after placing £10,000 to investment reserve, leaves a balance at the credit of profit and loss of £228,831, out of which the directors propose to declare the usual dividend of 23s. per share, to be paid on the 29th proximo. This, with the interim dividend of 12s. per share paid in last October, makes the total of 35s. per share for the year. The funds of the office on December 31, 1898, were £1,554,899 14s."

So much is written in the home papers from time to time of the internal troubles of Italy, that it is pleasant to read the following extract from the *Spectator* of the 25th of February last:—"The Italian Ambassador, who presided at a dinner of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in London on Wednesday evening, delivered an interesting and even surprising, speech on the present financial situation in Italy. Though admitting the cruelty of Italy's burden, he denies that she has bent beneath her load. The deposits in the savings banks and on current account with the banks throughout Italy amount to three milliards of lire, or £120,000,000 sterling. Italy now constructs the whole of the material for her Navy, and, what is much more significant, her private docks compete successfully for foreign orders with the great shipbuilding yards of the world. She makes all the rolling-stock for her railways; the number of her mechanics has doubled between 1871 and 1895; mineral exports and silk production have trebled; while the figures of arrivals and departures of steamers have risen from 24,000 to 60,000 in the same period. As an instance of the confidence reposed in Italy's commercial stability the Ambassador pointed to the founding of banks and factories in Milan by the Germans, the recent influx of French capital, the reorganisation of the sulphur industry by English aid, and Lord Armstrong's works near Naples. Altogether, the Ambassador's speech was most reassuring, but we must not forget that it was based on official statistics—and they often prove a little too much."

A PARIS telegram of the 25th Feb. says:—"A man who calls himself the Marquis de Dangle is attracting attention here by a remarkable story. He says that he was wrecked on the Antarctic Continent in the ship *Oregon*, in 1863. There was aboard a French colony made up of descendants of refugees, who left Europe at the time of the Napoleonic wars. Later, he says they organised themselves into a kingdom, named Adelia. The country which they inhabit in the Antarctic is fairly temperate. The Marquis says that, while among them, he visited the South Pole three times, and describes it as a huge volcano. Gold, he says, is abundant in the region. The old man says he recently made his way to Australia, after being shipwrecked twice. He exhibits many peculiar relics to support his story. Maritime records show that the *Oregon* was wrecked in the Antarctic seas in the year mentioned."

A COMPANY has recently been formed in England to work the Nernst Electric Lamp, which, it is claimed, will occupy the same position in electric lighting as the Welsbach

burner in gas lighting. According to the published descriptions Nernst's invention consists in the use of a rod of highly refractory oxide instead of carbon, as a light-giving body in incandescent lamps. Such materials are insulators when cold, but when heated are conductors, and as they stand a much higher temperature than carbon, they can be run at a much higher electrical efficiency. As the oxides are not consumed, a vacuum globe is unnecessary. Large Nernst Lamps contain an electrical heating hood, to get the rods hot enough to begin to conduct. As soon as the rod takes the current the hood is cut out of circuit automatically. The rod itself, with the two wires on which it is mounted, is easily replaceable. In smaller lamps, the movable hood is replaced by a stationary heater, so that the lamp is cheaper and simpler. Small lamps can be sold at an exceptionally low price without automatic lighters, merely entailing the slight trouble of lighting with a match. Such lamps are specially useful where great cheapness is important; thus solving the problem of the poor man's electric light. When preferred even the smallest lamps can be made with automatic lighters. The Nernst light is pleasant and becoming. Its light does not fall off materially during the life of the rod, and as there is no bulb, there is no loss of light through either internal blackening, or external dust and dirt. The rod of the Nernst Electric Lamp with its wire mount is detachable, and when worn out can be easily replaced by anyone, the body of the lamp serving for an indefinite period, whereas the ordinary incandescent electric lamp is of no use when its filament is broken or the glass darkened. The lamp is described by a well-known expert as "the greatest invention in electric lighting since the infancy of the industry."

In a review of *William Blackwood and his Sons* the N.Y. *Nation* says: "The Blackwoods published an *Agricultural Journal*, and when an enquiry was made into the cause of the potato disease, a number of farmers were asked to give their views. One farmer wrote: 'I thought at first it was a dispensation of Almighty God, but now I believe it is an insect.'"

WHILE Lord Charles Bessford is talking in this country, says the *San Francisco Chronicle*, about keeping China as it is, events, in which England has a part are hurrying towards a division of the empire among Foreign Powers. Some of the dividing has been already done. It must be conceded that Russia has become quite as absolute in Manchuria, under the fiction of leased ports and spheres of influence, as Great Britain has long been in Hong-kong. In that part of China held by Germany the Peking Government has no power whatever, nor will it have in the Province of Chékiang once Italy is in control. As rapidly as possible all the ports and all the railroads and mining privileges of China are passing into the hands of European States, with several claimants yet to hear from. What a grotesque assumption it is, therefore, to say that autonomy for China can be left. With the outlets, the natural wealth and the modern means of communication of the empire in the hands of Western powers, their respective spheres geographically defined and their influence used to compel the Peking Government to conform to European views, the partition of China will no longer be debatable. It will have been achieved. And when that very near time comes Great Britain will be found quite as well provided for as any other nation with landed spoils. Indeed, there is ground for the fears expressed at Peking that she does not propose to wait any longer before putting surveyors in the field. She is at the back of Italy, and may naturally be expected, while the prizes are passing, to help herself.

THE largest meeting held this year by the Victoria Institute took place at its house, Adelphi Terrace London, in March, to hear one of its new members, Professor Beale, F.R.S., the President of the Royal Microscopical Society, give an Address descriptive of the results of forty years' work as a professor of Physiology and of Microscopical research in regard to matter. In doing so he described how all organisms, including man himself, in the earliest stage of development, were represented by a very minute particle of living matter, from which numerous particles, also living, were derived; these proceeded to take up different positions, grow and form. All living forms were once living matter, or Bioplasm, and owed their peculiar structure and properties to the vital power of living matter by which they were formed, and at all periods of life the senses—touch, taste, etc.—and all muscular and nerve action—secretions, etc.—depended on the vital power of Bioplasm. During the living state the matter of the living particle was altered according to a definite and pre-arranged plan and purpose. He concluded as follows:—"Having long thought over the evidence I have been able to obtain as regard the *Nature of Life* during the past forty years—from the study of the actual *Living Matter the Bioplasm*, its characters, arrangement, and its relation to tissue as existing during its life, and shortly after death, in the case of organisms of very different orders, in various conditions of vital activity, in health and disease, with the aid of very high magnifying powers (up to 5,000 linear)—I now feel it a duty to publicly advocate the doctrine of the constant operation in all life, throughout the whole living world, of *Vital Power*—*Power* as distinct from all forces, potencies, and properties belonging to or derived from any kind, or resulting from any physical or chemical state, of Cosmic matter."

I have failed to discover any facts which would tend to cause a thoughtful student of *Living Nature* to hesitate as to the existence of *Vitality*, and so far I have been unable to discover or frame any hypothesis which could be advanced as a reasonable explanation of the facts of any kind of living matter without admitting the influence of *Infinite Power, Provision, and Wisdom*. All my efforts to obtain evidence which in reason, could be regarded as adequate to account in some other way for the facts, have entirely failed. Looking from a purely scientific point of view only, it seems to me that the cause of all vital phenomena from the very beginning of *Life*—in the present state of our knowledge can only be referred to the direct influence of an *Almighty Power*, and I feel confident that each succeeding advance in natural knowledge will be found to be, in the words of the Victoria Institute motto, "*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*."

An animated discussion followed, in which many took part.

The election of Professor Sir W. Turner, F.R.S., and other new members having taken place, the meeting was then adjourned.

NEWS IS FOOD FOR ACTIVE MINDS, especially in these days of quick communication, when we are enabled within a few hours to know what is taking place at the other end of the world. The merits of Holloway's Pills and Ointment, which have been familiar for over half a century amongst all civilised people, have been still more widely spread owing to these facilities. To the natives in the uttermost parts of India, Africa, Australia, and, indeed, to the whole human family, these remedies have been amongst the most precious gifts of civilisation. They cure disease and relieve the most acute pain. In cases of fever, ague, and liver and stomach complaints they are unequalled, whilst for wounds, bruises, sores, etc., they are the best known remedies.

160c-99c 234

17th Oct., 1898.

Miscellaneous Articles.

THE CHINA BLUE BOOK.

IV.

26th April.

ON the 3rd of August Sir Claude sent Lord Salisbury a copy of a note he had addressed to the Tsungli Yamèn, drawing its attention to the serious condition of affairs in Central Szechuan. The chief cause of these troubles, Sir Claude said, was the influence of the Board of Foreign Affairs at Chéngtu, whose head is a Taotai named Lai, notoriously anti-foreign. Mr. Litton and Sir Claude both urged the abolition of this Board. Then come more dispatches in reference to the outbreak in Kuangsi. In a dispatch of the 5th of August Sir Claude forwards to the Foreign Office a copy of the new Yangtze Regulations. There is a curious misprint in the dispatch, Sir Claude being made to say that the Regulations "have been sent to the Southern Superintendent of Trade at Nanning for promulgation," instead of Nanking. There is another dispatch from Mr. Byron Brenan with a continued account of the Ningpo Joss-house trouble, and some very brief telegrams from Sir Claude to Lord Salisbury announcing the *coup d'état* at Peking, but practically without such comment as would have enabled Lord Salisbury to appreciate the gravity of the situation. On the 15th of August Sir Claude sent home the particulars of the settlement of the Shasi riot, and on the 19th detailed particulars of his discussion with the Tsungli Yamèn of the Belgian Agreement. There are several telegrams in reference to the summoning of Legation Guards to Peking, and it is quite reassuring to see that Lord Salisbury was not moved by the remonstrances of the Chinese Minister in London, who asked him to order the marines to be withdrawn, "as the Legations at Peking were perfectly secure." The contempt with which Sir Claude, and, we believe, Peking generally, regarded the Emperor's efforts to purify the administration in China is shown in his telegram to Lord Salisbury of the 11th of October: "None of the Emperor's band of reformers seem to have been men with any power to support the reform, and the Emperor himself seems to have bowed meekly to the storm." More dispatches follow on the status of the French so-called Concession and Mr. Hanbury's land case. In the Memorandum on the Legal Status of the French Settlement it is shown that "the Legal Status of the British is exactly the same as that of the French Settlement. We renounced our pretensions because they were untenable under the Treaties, the French have persisted in theirs in the face of the Treaties." There is an

interesting dispatch from Sir C. Scott at St. Petersburg to Lord Salisbury reporting an interview with Count Lamsdorff, in which the latter told Sir Charles "that he had been much pleased to learn that M. Pavloff and Sir Claude Macdonald had been, during this crisis, on the best possible terms of mutual friendship and confidence, and he referred to certain sensational reports which had appeared in the public Press of both our countries in connection with recent events in China, the tendency of which he characterised as most mischievous." Then comes some correspondence on the subject of some land at Newchwang bought by British subjects and others whose deeds the Taotai, at the instance of the Russians, refused to stamp. They were, however, stamped in due time through the exertions of Mr. E. L. B. Allen, who was backed up by the Minister. There is some more correspondence on the French demand for an extension of their Settlement.

On the 8th of October Major-General Black, who was then acting as Governor of Hongkong, sent a dispatch to Mr. Chamberlain announcing the arrival there of Kang Yü-wei. There is one paragraph in it worth quoting, as it contains the first indication of any official sympathy with the Emperor. General Black says: "I have little doubt that if the Emperor's plans had been laid more wisely and boldly, and if he had summoned a regiment of soldiers true to him to the Palace, he would have been before-hand with the Dowager Empress, and have turned the tables on her. Though some of his schemes, such as reform in dress, were absurd and unpractical, some were more wise and reasonable, and no one can deny that there is plenty of scope for reform." There is an interesting communication from the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce urging the speedy completion of the Mandalay-Kunlon Railway, and another from the London Chamber, supporting the Hongkong Chamber's representation in favour of the removal of the Chinese Customs from British territory.

On the 21st of September last the Tsungli Yamèn sent Sir Claude a dispatch containing the views of the Canton Viceroy on the Kowloon Extension, together with eleven Regulations drawn up by the Viceroy's deputy, a Taotai named Wang Ts'un-shan. This was too much for Sir Claude, and in his reply to the Tsungli Yamèn he says: "I have the honour to observe that on the 9th of June last, an Agreement for the extension of the territory of the Colony of Hongkong was entered into by our respective Governments, in which all relevant matters were included in clear detail. It is, therefore, out of the question that the Governor-General of Canton should be permitted to draw up Regulations for the loan of his

district. His action is quite uncalled for, and his Regulations are unworthy of consideration." In a written dispatch of the 21st of September Sir Claude sends the full report of his discussion with the Yamèn arising out of the latter's duplicity in regard to the Belgian Concession. Some correspondence is printed between Sir Claude and the French Minister at Peking with reference to the extension of the French Settlement, in which M. Pichon is most carefully non-committal. Then comes a long dispatch from Sir Claude, with enclosures, containing a brief history of the *coup d'état* and of Chang Yin-huan's banishment, though no precise crime was charged against him.

On pages 295-9 are memorials from the Chinese Association in London and the Hongkong Branch with reference to the establishment of the Chinese Customs in Hongkong, and the constant presence of Customs cruisers in the surrounding waters. "We should all be glad," says Mr. J. J. Francis, "if they could be got rid of entirely out of Hongkong and out of the surrounding waters; and if the Chinese could be induced to collect their Customs revenue in their ports as every other nation does, and not on the high seas and by way of a blockade of our island. An opportunity now occurs for the revision of the existing arrangements, but any revision ought to be in the direction of the loosening of our bonds and not of their being rendered more stringent and more weighty." On November the 18th the Admiralty at home sent the Foreign Office a dispatch from Admiral Seymour in which the latter, without any word of complaint, gives a short sketch of the way in which his ships were sent up and down the Gulf of Pechili in September last in response to urgent telegrams from Sir Claude. We must reserve the rest of the Blue Book for a concluding notice.

V.

27th April.

A DISPATCH from Sir Claude to Lord Salisbury, dated the 11th of October, gives details of the circumstances under which the Legation Guards were, after great patience had been shown, ordered to Peking; and another dispatch of the next day gives such a striking example of the way in which the Tsungli Yamèn works that it is worth quoting. Sir Claude says: "I ascertained on very good authority that one of the Ministers who came with Prince Ching to see me on the 5th October had stated that it was entirely due to my initiative and advice that Legation guards had been sent for. He also told my informant that M. Pavloff, Russian *Charge d'Affaires*, had stated at a meeting which he had with the Tsungli Yamèn on the 4th inst. that he personally

was averse to the bringing up of these guards, and thought it a great mistake, but that he was obliged to order them up as I had ordered up mine. This being so diametrically opposed to what M. Pavloff had said at the meeting of the foreign Representatives, I called upon him and informed him of what I had heard. He denied altogether having used such language, and said that at his meeting on the 4th the Yamèn had told him that I on the previous day had made use of similar language, but he had informed them that this could not be, as all the foreign Representatives in this matter were unanimous. I am convinced that M. Pavloff did not make use of the language stated, and that this was only one more attempt of the Tsungli Yamèn to play off one Legation against another." Whether this attempt was worth all the trouble Sir Claude took to get the *Doyen* to assure the Yamèn that the whole Diplomatic Body were agreed in demanding guards, is a question. On the 13th of October, Sir Claude sends a lengthy dispatch to Lord Salisbury detailing the reactionary measures taken by the Empress Dowager. In two lines Sir Claude gives the Peking view of the Reform party: "I consider the cause of true Reform in China has been much injured by the injudicious conduct of Kang Yü-wei and his friends." Enclosed in the dispatch is Mr. Byron Brennan's account of the rescue of Kang Yü-wei, and we learn from Sir Claude's dispatch that Mr. Brennan was actuated "by the desire to avoid the very difficult question which would have arisen had Kang Yü-wei, a political offender, been arrested by the Chinese officials either in a British ship or in the foreign Settlement of Shanghai." There is a very superficial report by Mr. H. Cockburn of his conversation with Kang Yü-wei on the *Ballaarat* between Shanghai and Hongkong, in which an attempt is made to show that the Empress Dowager is not really so black as she is painted. "It may be," says Mr. Cockburn, "that the Empress Dowager's hostility to reform is either unfounded or exaggerated; that she has merely become convinced that the Emperor's hasty changes cannot be carried out without exciting grave discontent and possibly rebellion; that it is not safe to alienate the leading-men of the Empire by showing an inclination to set them on one side; that what had already been done had filled the minds of all officials with alarm as to what might come next; and that to prevent disaster the policy of the Government must be steadied and made more cautious."

On the 6th of December the China Association in London sent to the Foreign Office a memorandum urging a Government survey of the Upper Yangtze, with a memorandum on the

Rapids by Mr. A. J. Little, and a report by Mr. Bourne. There are some more telegrams about Shasi, and some correspondence about the extension of the British Concession at Hankow, and some important dispatches in which the Tsungli Yamèn is urged to move General Tung's Kansu troops from Peking. There is an agreement, communicated by Mr. Cameron, between the British and Chinese Corporation, Ltd., and the American China Development Corporation, by which each party binds itself to offer to the other one-half of its own interest in any business hereafter obtained by it; this agreement including the American railway from Hankow to Canton and the English railway from Canton to Kowloon, but not the Shanghai-Nanking line, the Soochow-Ningpo, or the Shanhai-kuan extension. On the 15th of December Sir Claude reports by wire the reception of seven wives of foreign Representatives by the Empress Dowager. He says: "The Dowager-Empress made a most favourable impression, both by the personal interest she took in all her guests and by her courteous amiability." To foreigners in Peking unconnected with the Legations, and to nearly all other foreigners in China it seemed incredible that a British Minister who respected himself and his country could allow his wife to go to the Palace under the circumstances in which these ladies went, and could then write of the usurper in such complacent and courtier-like terms. Many telegrams are printed dealing with the extension of the French Settlement at Shanghai, Lord Salisbury's chief care being that no British property should be given over to be administered by the French. There is a strong protest, dated the 6th of January, by the China Association in London against the grant to France of an exclusive extension. There is an interesting memorandum by Sir Claude Macdonald of all the railway and mining concessions granted by China up to the 23rd of November last, in which certainly England does not come out badly.

There is some important correspondence on a case of illegal levy of likin on foreign-owned yarn at Foo-chow, which was ultimately settled by the payment by the Taotai of \$3,000, and the grant of a certificate freeing Messrs. Odell and Co.'s genuine foreign goods from likin, pending the delimitation of the likin free area. Then comes more correspondence about the removal of the Kansu troops from Peking, and about the extension of the French Settlement at Shanghai. Sir Claude Macdonald is instructed by Lord Salisbury to apply for a general Settlement at Chefoo, and there is some interesting correspondence with reference to the resolutions handed to Lord Charles Beresford by the British residents at

Newchwang. There is an excellent paper by Mr. E. L. B. Allen dealing with these resolutions, and Sir Claude throws a little cold water on them. The last two documents in the book are a telegram from Sir Claude of the 3rd of February to Lord Salisbury announcing the opening of Nanning, and a reply of the same date congratulating Sir Claude on this result. Now that Sir Claude is on his way home, we may well wind up this summary of a year's work by quoting what he himself wrote to Lord Charles Beresford on the 23rd of November last:—"Not a single *bond fide* or approximately practical scheme which has been brought to this Legation has failed to be put through. Every single *bond fide* complaint from the Treaty ports has been looked into and settled. There are some three or four now being investigated, and I hope for an early settlement." This is a very handsome record.

THE PEKING WAR PARTY.

28th April.

OUR Northern correspondence draws attention to the visit of Captains Yeh and Sa to Peking, and hints that more than mere naval organisation is implied by the incident. We hear from other sources that the ultra-conservatives in the Capital are growing confident of their ability to meet force by force, and are urging the Empress Dowager, or Hsi T'ai-hou, to adopt bolder measures towards the Foreign Powers. There is good reason for assuming that this is chiefly due to the unwise precipitancy of Signor Martino in the Sanmen affair and to an exaggerated estimate of the importance of possible visits by Austrian, Italian, and Danish cruisers to Chinese waters. Whatever they may ultimately do, the Pekingese are at present only discussing the expediency of offering more than passive resistance and protest, if the Kiaochou gambit be tried again: there is still time for counsel to be heard. We know that foreign advice in China, even when sound and disinterested, often rubs the sore where it should bring the plaster. In our matter-of-fact English way of looking at things instead of theories we ignore that most precious of all Chinese possessions—Face. Of two policies a Chinese will deliberately choose the worse if it but saves "face" with his contemporaries; what posterity may deem of his wisdom, his honour, or his patriotism, is a secondary consideration. This is the stumbling-block of every Chinese statesman and, therefore, of Chinese policy; they see the better but follow the worse. Practically the way to secure the adoption of anything in this crumbling, old Empire is, firstly, to persuade the officials that

their "Face" is assured and, secondly, that their interests are safe. We are not at all sanguine we can do either, but as we have a strong conviction that the ultra-conservatives in Peking are the ultra-ignorant and that the adoption of their policy will hasten the partition of their country, we will try to clearly state our views.

In the practical government of men the probability of success in any policy is the determinant factor in adopting it. This is axiomatic. Now, what likelihood is there of China being able to resist successfully the petty aggressions even of a minor foreign Power? We deliberately say petty, because no Power at the moment thinks of large aggressions; we doubt if the greatest Powers would be prepared to undertake off-hand the administration of two provinces, even if the conquest were bloodless: they have not the material. Let us first take the Chinese Navy. The Nanyang squadron may be taken as a negligible quantity; except for river work, in operations against foreign Powers, neither in equipment nor *personnel* is it worth consideration. What then have the Chinese to depend on? The two new German cruisers, the two Elswick vessels now on their way out, one Tyneside and four Elbau torpedo-catchers or destroyers. It is not to be forgotten that, with the exception of the first two vessels, these ships have no crews; that there is no naval base, no docks, and no organisation. With a folly that seems akin to madness the officials allowed most of the junior officers and bluejackets after Weihaiwei to lapse into civil life, simply because half-pay was not a Chinese institution, and the scapegoat hypothesis was in full action. There are no naval stores and the new vessels after one action would be *hors de combat* for all subsequent hostilities. We have on previous occasions expressed our belief in China's essential folly in re-acquiring a fleet, except for minor purposes of policing her own waters, transporting soldiers, and suppressing incipient rebellion. If she goes further we believe she is simply offering a premium on attack. The four modern cruisers and destroyers now in hand would be in themselves almost a good enough prize for an act of aggression.

But what about the Army? With the doubtful exception of General Yuan's troops in Hsiaoohan, near Tientsin, there is no real military efficiency in the Empire—that is, efficiency against foreign force. The rabble which form the troops in the South have about as much courage as Sir Andrew Aguecheek; if you find as much blood (pluck) in his liver as will clog the foot of a flea, we will eat the rest of his anatomy. The officers for the most part are corrupt

and ignorant, the equipment is all sham, and the whole *personnel* from top to bottom wanting in everything that constitutes soldierlike prowess. Give them an unarmed city to loot and they would do well, but we doubt if they could do more. The officers are smitten with that leprosy of greed which makes training impossible and which issues in poltroonery in the day of trial. There is no commissariat, only an inefficient ordnance, a perfectly hopeless cavalry, and no leadership. With the recent Soudan experience before our eyes, where brave men were mown down like grass, we can imagine but one issue to a contest in China, however unequal the numbers. General Sherman said in a letter to his brother: "A million of men brought from peaceful pursuits will be vanquished by a few thousand of trained soldiers, well led. The justice of a Cause has nothing to do with it; it is a question of force."

So much injury resulted from the Chinese forming an exaggerated estimate of their own power after their brush with France in 1884, that it behoves their friends as well as themselves to be under no similar delusions now. He is China's enemy who persuades the officials to military or naval resistance, for there can be no manner of doubt that the next big shaking of the Old Tree will bring it down. Even if a minor European Power begins the process it is a sheer impossibility that the disturbance can be confined to one Power. The initiative of one will be the opportunity of many. But what then is China to do? Can she stand quietly by and allow herself to be assaulted with impunity? We believe that, if she chooses her policy with wisdom, she need not be assaulted, and that, even if she be in one or two cases, the process need not be continuous. Her best weapons are those qualities deeply imbedded in the national character of passivity and patience under provocation. She can make terms in time with the best of her putative foes, and may possibly convert one or more of them into protectors—the old worldly-wise policy of conciliating the Mammon of Unrighteousness. She can still hold her enemies in play by setting them at cross purposes. Although the equipoise of conflicting lupine hungers affords very precarious safety to the lamb, it is still something; it gains time, and means she may begin setting her house in order under the guidance of would-be protectors. This ancient Empire is finding as usual that sorrows come not single spies but in battalions. The only advice that can be given to China just now is also the most obvious—viz., choose the least of the besetting evils. We feel sure that the greatest of these ills will be a recourse to arms, naval or military. Such a procedure will but more

startlingly reveal her utter weakness and precipitate that which she wishes to avoid.

INCENDIARISM IN SHANGHAI.

29th April.

THE Mixed Court magistrate passed sentence yesterday on Mou Kwei-too, the tailor who wilfully caused the burning of his own shop on the morning of the 22nd instant, with the intention of securing the excessive sum for which he had insured his stock in trade, and the sentence was twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour. A more grossly inadequate sentence was seldom given. There are many cases of arson in Shanghai which go unpunished because proof is so difficult, but this case was clearly proved to the satisfaction of the magistrate and the assessor, and it was also clearly proved that what little stock there was in the shop was enormously over-insured. The prisoner absented himself on the night of the fire, but left his servants and assistants to their fate. As it happened, there was no loss of life, but the prisoner did nothing to prevent any possible fatality. It is a significant fact, that though the tailors of Shanghai generally took up his case at first, they repudiated him altogether as soon as they had made enquiries about him, nor was any reason shown why a severe sentence should not have been passed on him; such a sentence as might have operated as a deterrent. Arson often includes murder, and where no lives are lost it is as a crime only second to murder in heinousness, and to visit it with one year's imprisonment is a mockery of justice. By Chinese law a man convicted of arson has all his property confiscated to indemnify his neighbours who have suffered by his actions, and is banished to a distance of three thousand *li*, while if any lives have been lost in the fire, he is decapitated. It is reported that the prisoner in this case being a Ningpo man, some of the prominent Ningpo men in Shanghai interceded successfully for him with the Taotai, by whose directions the sentence was reduced to one year; if this be so, it is a scandal which ought to be enquired into.

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THE CHINA MUTUAL S. N. CO., LD.

29th April.

IN the absence of Mr. David Reid, Mr. J. A. Maitland, another old China hand, presided at the annual meeting of the China Mutual Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., held in London on the 14th of March, and with the aid of Mr. Reid's notes he gave his hearers a most interesting account of the company, its working, its steamers, its past, and its future. After congratulating the shareholders on the dividends which it was proposed to declare, he mentioned the sale of the *Pingsuey* and *Oolong*. So rapidly do the conditions of the trade change, that these two steamers which made their first voyages in 1890 and 1893, respectively, have already become too small; and we may note in passing that the China Mutual Company has the great advantage of not being hampered, like some of its competitors, with the possession of a lot of obsolete craft which augment the list of tonnage but cannot be profitably employed. Although the sale of these two steamers had diminished the Company's tonnage, they had found such profitable employment, not only in China and Japan, but in California, India, Indo-China, and Java, that the net result shown in the profit and loss account was £32,000 better than in 1897. The Company suffered, like all other Steamer Companies, from the advance in the price of coal, which, taking the average consumption for a year, cost the Company 4s. a ton more than in 1897, or an excess of £17,000 for the year, nearly equal to 7 per cent. on the share capital. Mr. Maitland noticed that the Company's tug and cargo-boats at Shanghai had done good service, but, owing to the increase of water on the Woosung Bar, the cargo-boats had not been required of late, and one had been sold and others profitably chartered during the summer.

Mr. Maitland noticed that a considerable change had been made in the statement of the accounts. The item headed Depreciation, Boiler, and Reserve Fund has been eliminated, and the sum of £123,770 which stood to its credit last year has been deducted from Steamers' Purchase Account; that is to say, it has had no existence except in the books, it has always been really invested in the steamers, and it has now gone to writing down the value of the fleet. This year out of the profits of 1898, the sum of £65,000 was carried direct to the credit of Steamers' Purchase Account. Mr. Maitland did not say what the fleet worked out at per ton, but he told his hearers: "I have no hesitation in saying that from the *bond fide* offers of purchase that have been made to us for many of our boats, and from estimates submitted by the ship-builders, the fleet stands at a figure

considerably below its intrinsic worth." He also mentioned the three new steamers that are to begin their work this year, and on account of which £62,562 has been paid, and averred "that they could not be replaced to-day except at a large advance on contract prices." Of these three, one, the *Yangtze*, was launched at Belfast in January; the second, a new *Pingsuey*, was to be launched last month; while the third, building in Glasgow and as yet unnamed, is very much behindhand owing to the pressure of work that is felt in all the best ship-building yards, but is expected to be ready about midsummer.

Then Mr. Maitland indulged in a gentle retrospect and said:—

Gentlemen, looking back to the year 1882, when our company was formed and our enterprise commenced with the building on the Clyde of the *Oopack* and *Ningchow* (the latter is in perfect order, and still profitably employed), each of 2,700 tons gross register—vessels at that time considered the most suitable type for our trade—and contrasting these two with the eight fine steamers built for us within the last three or four years and the three now nearing completion, the changes in the carrying trade are remarkable. Some of you may wonder, as I sometimes wonder, whether the expansion of the trade of the world, and more especially that part of it in which we are more directly interested, is such as will give full, constant, and profitable employment to the greatly-increased tonnage of the mercantile marine to which the year 1898 has contributed. I would only say as to this, that since the accounts were made up on December 31st last, the working of the company has been quite satisfactory. It never does to prophesy unless you know, but there is certainly very fair encouragement for hoping that the working of the present year will prove good.

During the past twelve months we have witnessed vast and far-reaching changes in the political and commercial relations of the Great Powers with China; promising, by means of railway concessions, mining concessions, and the opening up to foreign-owned vessels of free access to the waterways of the interior, great opportunities for enterprise.

He went on to quote Sir Claude Macdonald's sanguine estimate of 2,800 miles of British railways in China; and he justly said such important concessions "must mean large expenditure sooner or later of foreign capital for plant, rolling-stock, and materials of various kinds . . . Progress must be made, and to this Company, as ocean carriers, all these concessions cannot be otherwise than advantageous . . . With our splendid fleet, officered and engineered by men of capacity and experience, under the guidance of our most capable, zealous and untiring managing director, Mr. Gulland, I believe we shall be able to render to you a good account of our stewardship, should we be privileged to meet you in this room in the closing year of the nineteenth century." It was only to be expected that all the formal resolutions should be carried without a dissentient voice, including a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors and staff, the captains and officers

of the Company. The Company has been a fortunate one from the first, and its good fortune has been supported by thoroughly good management, and the greatest care in the selection of the sea-going staff, to whom its continued success is recognised as being very largely due.

Reviews.

THE FRENCH MAIL PAPERS.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 24TH OF MAR.

ALL Englishmen were interested in the success of Lord Kitchener in the Sudan, but there were many who feared that there might be some truth in the stories of the massacring of the wounded Dervishes, and that there was no justification for the ill-treatment of the Mahdi's remains. It is satisfactory to know that Lord Kitchener and his army have been completely vindicated. The *Globe* of the 23rd of March says:—

"Cruel and disgraceful" is the description applied by Lord Kitchener of Khartoum to the charges brought against him and his army in the Sudan by Mr. Bennett in the *Contemporary Review*; and every Englishman will concur in it. As the Sirdar remarks, if the accusations had been well-founded, it would scarcely have been left to a newspaper correspondent to formulate them three months after the event. Of course, they were not true: and Lord Kitchener gives them one and all a categorical denial. He never ordered the wounded Dervishes to be massacred, or gave it to be understood that he wished such a thing; and it is simply not true that the troops under his command fired upon wounded or unarmed men when they were powerless to inflict injury. It is equally false to assert that Omdurman was looted for three days after its occupation, or that mixed parties of fugitives were fired upon in the streets. The number of wounded who fell into the hands of the victorious force was obviously too large to be treated in the military field hospitals, but the report of Colonel Sir Richard Wingate shows conclusively that as much was done for their relief as could be done with the resources at disposal. The destruction of the Mahdi's tomb and the removal of his remains were political necessities. If the tomb had been left it would, as everyone acquainted with Mahomedan fanaticism knows, have become a focus of danger in the future. But here again the truth has not been told. No Moslem is ever buried in a coffin: it is therefore impossible that pieces of the coffin should have been preserved as curiosities; and it is certain, as Lord Cromer points out, that if any bones are in the possession of British officers they are not those of the Mahdi. Lord Cromer, it will be observed, completely agrees with the Sirdar as to the necessity for the destruction of the tomb, and the scattering of the remains. The vindication of the Sirdar is thus as complete as could be wished. It was to be expected that the vindication would be forthcoming, but it is not the less satisfactory to have it presented in so satisfactory a shape.

The *Times* of the 20th of March has a leading article on the attack that has been made by Russia on the constitutional rights of the Finns, to which we refer again lower down, and it says:—

Our St. Petersburg correspondent explains the causes which have led to the issue of the Imperial edict. It is the outcome of a characteristic Russian movement of many years' standing—a movement of which M. Pobiedonostzeff may be regarded as the embodiment. That movement has for its object to consolidate the Empire, by obliterating the natural and historical distinctions of the races of the empire, and crushing them so far as possible into a homogeneous mass with a single code and a single creed. The Jews, the Roman Catholic Poles, the Armenians, the Lutheran Germans of the Baltic, and now the Lutheran Finns have all been subjected to a

process intended to effect this aim. This attempt to strengthen the Empires by imparting to it a kind of mechanical cohesion stands in striking contrast to that by which Great Britain deals with her outlying dominions. As our power grows and our possessions expand we depend more and more upon the capacity of our colonies to govern themselves. Even where differences of race made this impossible, we avail ourselves to the utmost of any faculty for local administration our native subjects may possess. We rely on organic growth. Russia trusts in superficial likeness imposed from above. Time alone can show which method in the end will give the best and the most enduring results.

The English Press has been much amused by the new plan, published in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* which was once regarded as a serious magazine, for the invasion of the British isles by France. The correspondent of the *Times* at Paris summarises it as follows:—

After a rapid survey of the various efforts which have been made to invade England, the writer develops what he conceives to be a sure and feasible plan. Not long ago, it will be remembered, a boat called the *Fram* was constructed with a view to navigation on the Loire even during the low water season. It is a sort of steam barge with two screws. It is 41 mètres long, 5·5 mètres broad, and 1·1 metre deep. With water and coal on board the *Fram* draws only 28 centimètres. Now it is easy to construct on the same lines pinnaces of small draught, decked and capable of attaining a speed of from eight to ten knots. To be able to pass from the canals and rivers to the high seas these boats would be provided with false keels analogous to those of racing yachts, which would give them all the necessary stability. These boats could be constructed simultaneously in all French yards, and collected at different points on the 11,000 kilometres of navigable canals and rivers leading down to the French coast. They could be armed with a quick-firing gun in the prow with its appurtenances, a revolving quick-firing 47-millimetre gun and the necessary gunners, with 24 horses and half or a whole company of infantry. The drinking water would be stored in watertight compartments, and other provisions and ammunitions would be placed in small chests, which would serve as benches for the troops.

There would be little danger for these pinnaces of being sunk by cannon shot, for they would be divided into watertight compartments, and if a hostile ship should endeavour to sink them by running them down it would be blown up by the torpedo which is part of the armament. Moreover, the pinnaces could defend themselves against torpedo-boats by the quick-firing 47-millimetre gun which they would carry, and which is capable of discharging in a minute a great number of shells.

"To be able," says the writer, "to hurl upon England an army of 160,000 to 170,000 men, with 500 quick-firing guns and the necessary ammunition and provisions, 1,500 steam pinnaces would have to be constructed, which would cost 150,000,000f., an important sum, no doubt, but one which, considering that it would come out of the 800,000,000f. voted by Parliament for the increase of the fleet, would be, perhaps, more usefully spent in thus procuring for us so powerful a means of attack than if it were devoted to the construction of ironclads. Moreover, there is all the less reason for hesitation as this flotilla, so far from being unproductive in time of peace, would render trade and commerce the greatest services."

The problem of getting these vessels across the Channel and upon the English coast presents no difficulties for the writer. As for English coast defences, he thinks them almost negligible quantity. The troops would be landed almost simultaneously, like a party of Cook's tourists out for a holiday. In fact, Napoleon had to face a far more difficult problem at Wagram, where he had to cross the Danube by four bridges in front of the whole Austrian army. From Calais or Dunkirk the operation would be merely a matter of three or four hours, and the invader could descend on Brighton in seven hours. Moreover, favourable points for landing are far more numerous than is supposed. Twelve divisions of 14,500 men each could thus land in England and three in

Ireland without disturbing in any way the mobilisation of the 20 army corps. And the Irish could be armed with old Gras rifles, several hundreds of thousand of which are rusting in French arsenals. According to our optimistic writer, *ils ne demanderaient pas mieux*.

The *Times* of the 21st of March has an article on British Policy in China, in which attention is drawn to Count Hatzfeldt's comparison, quoted in the Blue Book, of Germany's claim on Shantung with England's claim on the Yangtze Valley. Germany, says the *Times*,

can shut out British enterprise, and she will, except when she wants its aid for her own purposes or makes its admission a matter of bargain. But if we try to shut out German enterprise from the Yangtze region we shall find that we are on a totally different footing. It may be said that it is not our policy to shut out anybody, and that, therefore, there is no harm done. There would be none if other people's policy were the same as ours, and Germany's policy in these matters has of late shown a tendency to approximate more closely to our own. But her policy may change again, and there are other Powers interested in China who have shown no signs yet of conversion to the principles which find favour in this country. It is this contrast between the basis of our concessions and position in China and the basis insisted upon by Russia and Germany which causes the disquietude expressed last night. Mr. Brodrick was very sarcastic upon some of the random opinions put forward, but these excrescences do not affect the main question. He would have done well to address himself more fully to that question instead of merely repeating generalities such as "we stand by the necessity for safeguarding to the utmost of our power the particular sphere in which we are interested." That is all very well, but it shirks the point. Are we safeguarding our particular sphere to the best of our ability when we hesitate to take the only steps that other nations consent to regard as constituting a legal or moral claim to such predominance as they exercise over large tracts of China?

The following is the Money Market note in the *Economist* of the 25th of March:—

The market this week has passed under the control of the Bank, from which it has been compelled to borrow pretty largely, and next week with the Stock Exchange settlement, the holiday requirements, and the customary temporary increase in the demand for money at the end of the quarter, the borrowings will be on a still larger scale. But while, as a consequence of this, loan rates have stiffened up, the discount market has shown a slightly easier tendency. Quotations, however, are irregular, ranging from a shade under to a fraction over 2½ per cent. The expectation, of course, is that after the turn of the quarter, money will become cheaper, and so it probably will for a time. Whether the cheapness will be of long continuance is, however, another matter. Our Berlin correspondent directs attention to the stringent condition of the money market there, and the probability of an early advance in the rate of the Reichsbank. Russia is still bent upon absorbing gold, and the condition of affairs in New York, where trust securities are being manufactured at an astounding rate, and foisted upon the market at inflated prices, although it has produced no disturbance as yet, is ominous of future trouble. And these are not circumstances in which it is safe to speculate upon any lengthened period of cheaper money, whatever may be the temporary effect of the outpouring of dividend and other moneys at the beginning of the quarter.

The *Economist* is very pleased with the agreement made by Lord Salisbury and M. Cambon as to the African dispute, but points out that it "does not even help to legalise our most uncomfortable legal position in Egypt, and, indeed, in the whole of the Nile Valley, and that under it if we acquire rights we also undertake liabilities of a very serious kind." The *Economist* also speaks well of the new London Government Bill which, though it is not perfect, "does seek to accomplish these two results—to raise the character and prestige of the

local municipal administrations of London, and to give to these bodies definite and important functions to perform." In an article on "Indian Finance" it says that the position altogether "is sound and promising, and the work of currency reform which now lies to the hands of the government will, at all events be begun under very favourable conditions."

Mr. Wilson in the *Investors' Review* is by no means sanguine about Indian Finance, whose stability, he says, "depends on the strength of the London money market to sustain the demands upon its resources made by India, Australasia, Canada, South Africa, the West Indian Islands, and other miscellaneous possessions of ours." There is an amusing article by F. Reginald Statham, headed "In Chase of a Guarantee." "The case," he says, "stands exactly in this way:—Is Mr. Rhodes making use of the Kaiser? Is the Kaiser making use of Mr. Rhodes? And to what extent are they both going to make use of the British investor?" We take the following from a note headed "Spitzel v. the Chinese Corporation":—

This motion, to restrain the defendant corporation from acting upon a resolution to wind-up voluntarily, raised a nice point as to what constitutes a "member" of a company, so as to entitle that person to vote. The plaintiff had agreed to sell his business to a company to be formed to take it over, and the consideration for the sale was to be in shares. By an agreement \$5,000 shares were to be allotted to the plaintiff and 35,000 to his nominees, the Gold Estates of Australia, Limited; but the certificates were to be deposited in escrow, ready for issue or otherwise, in Lloyds Bank, and were only to be delivered upon a satisfactory report coming from the company's agents in China as to the business to be acquired. Upon the register the plaintiff's name and that of his nominees appeared, but an entry was made that this allotment was subject to the above condition. On the report proving unsatisfactory the contract was repudiated, and at a meeting of the company it was resolved to wind it up. At that meeting the plaintiff's wife, acting upon a power of attorney, claimed to vote in respect of the shares standing in the plaintiff's name, but the chairman refused to accept the votes, and the resolution was carried.

The note goes on to show that Mr. Justice Stirling refused the injunction, as the plaintiff had not performed his part of the contract, and was therefore not a member of the Company and not entitled to vote.

The *Saturday Review* has the following note on the injustice which is being done to Finland which, by special grant of Alexander I, renewed by his successors, is allowed to preserve its national parliament, and the administration of its own ports, railways, canals, custom-houses, hygiene, tribunals, and finances:—

The unhappy Finlanders who went to St. Petersburg with a petition from practically the whole adult male population of the Duchy have been ordered back to their homes without being permitted to see the Czar or any of his Ministers. So the free constitution of Finland, which Nicholas like his ancestors had solemnly sworn to uphold, is at an end, and those who murmur are threatened with "administrative measures," in other words arbitrary arrest and deportation to Siberia. The military party count on some overt resistance which will enable General Bobrikoff to restore "order" by the traditional Russian methods, but in the words of the rejected petition "during the ninety years of its union with mighty Russia public order has never failed in Finland" and the most peaceable, orderly, and enlightened of the Czar's subjects are not going to play into the hands of their oppressors. Their representatives are quietly making inquiries about the prospects of settlement in the Canadian North-West and elsewhere. Rather than permit themselves to be reduced to a Russian level, the Finlanders will mournfully seek across the Atlantic a refuge from Imperial perjury and military tyranny.

President Krüger is the subject of the *Saturday's* first leader, and the Future of Spain of the second. There is a serious article, too, against any Anglo-American alliance.

We take the following notes from the *Spectator* :—

The trial of M. Urbain Gohier for libelling the French Army ended on Tuesday in an unexpected verdict. M. Gohier had vehemently arraigned the whole system, declaring that the barracks were hotbeds of vice and disease, that the tyranny of the officers was excessive, that the men were trained in moral cowardice, and that the chiefs were corrupt. The Public Prosecutor called these accusations most unpatriotic as well as defamatory, and summoned the jury to punish them in the name of the country. It was supposed, therefore, that M. Urbain Gohier—a man of high character, though a little fanatic on his subject—would receive a severe sentence, but M. Camille Pelletan, for nineteen years Reporter of the Budget Committee, testified that as regarded corruption he believed the accusations were true. He had himself seen reason to suspect great frauds in the accounts, but the War Office invariably refused the Committee any information. Several officers testified to the accuracy of M. Gohier's descriptions, and even Generals wrote to him letters of approval. He was therefore acquitted, and left the Court amid roars of approval from the audience, who are apparently beginning to recover from the temper which has infected all France. The verdict and its reception will increase the courage of the Court of Cassation.

Mr. J. H. Choate, the new American Ambassador, was the guest of the Associated Chambers of Commerce on Wednesday evening, and made a most successful first appearance. He began by expressing the appreciation felt by his countrymen of "the forbearance, the goodwill, and the friendship manifested to them so freely by the people of this country," as well as his personal gratitude for the cordial greeting he had received. He had not only found "the 'open door,' but was able to combine with it a new and enlarged 'sphere of influence.'" But while England and America remained friends, he did not believe they would ever cease to be rivals; rivals, however, on a generous and loyal footing, who would always settle all their disputes by peaceful means, realising that war was the worst possible means of settling any controversy between brothers. Touching on the numerous and heated controversies that had arisen in the eighty-four years during which America and England had been at peace, he asked what one of these would not have led to war between other nations? M. Choate concluded with sympathetic references to the death of Lord Herschell, whom he described as having sacrificed his life in the common service of both nations, and to the recovery of Mr. Kipling, who "somehow or other had reached the hearts of more English-speaking men, women, and children of the world than any other living writer." Mr. Choate's cordiality was all the more impressive for its freedom from gush or exaggeration.

The first leading article in the *Spectator* is headed "An Understanding with Russia," and for much of the existing misunderstanding between the two countries the writer blames our diplomats. The conclusion of the article is :—

After all there is no reason why we should not come to terms with Russia. She is the great land-Power, while we are the great sea-Power, and our political aspirations and interests do not really clash. We do not want dominion in China, though we do want trade, and Russia, though she wants dominion in North China, does not want to kill our trade there any more than she does in the Baltic or the Black Sea. Surely, then, we ought to be able to come to terms. Let us hope that those terms may ultimately give Russia access to ports on the Pacific, on the Persian Gulf, and on the Mediterranean. If we continue friends with Russia they will be capital places of trade. If we go to war with Russia we shall at last have places to strike at, and shall be able to do some hurt to our antagonist.

There is a rather amusing article on the Tsungli Yamèn and the Dowager Empress, written from the superior standpoint of a person whose omniscience necessarily includes Peking, and there is the reference, to which we are getting accustomed, to "the malignant gossip of Shanghai, founded on Chinese tittle-tattle." The Dowager Empress, we learn, does not require to be bribed, because she has "vast wealth and armies of Mandarins to squeeze." There is an interesting small-type article headed, "Three Rotten Cultures."

Mr. Labouchere in *Truth* writes very narrowly in his article headed "Naval Napoleonism." He does not allow for the undoubted fact that our overwhelmingly powerful fleet has done a great deal to preserve the peace of the world, while Russia's success in China shows that it is not used oppressively. The leading article in the *World* is headed "The Rift in the Ministerial Lute," and it condemns Mr. Balfour's proposal to establish a Roman Catholic University in Ireland out of the funds of the State. The *Westminster* has a capital cartoon by Gould "My Friend the Kaiser." Cecil Rhodes is introducing the Kaiser to Krüger: "My friend the Kaiser." "Your friend," says Oom Paul, "I thought he was mine." The illustrations in the *Westminster* are better even than usual this week. It is a good number of the *St. James's* too. Linley Sambourne's place in *Punch* is taken this week by Phil May, who gives us the Lord Chancellor reassuring the "bookies." Tenniel's cartoon deals with Cecil Rhodes's visit to the Kaiser, and there is an amusing lament by Paulina Krüger to her false love William. We have only room for one verse :—

Ah! Once in halcyon weather
We hinted, each to each,
How we would bathe together
On Delagoa beach;
Not sundering lands nor burning sands
Should keep us out of touch;
You blew me German kisses,
And I replied with Dutch!

NOTICES OF BOOKS, ETC.

We have received Nos. 2 and 3 of Vol. XIV of *The Orient*, the excellent monthly magazine in English, each number with a charming frontispiece, published in Tokio. The leading article in the February issue deals with "The Situation and its Prospects," the writer holding that "the situation, the outlook, is of a very sombre hue." There is also the first of a valuable series of articles on the finances of China. In the March number Mr. Ariga Nagao suggests a "Collective Guarantee of the Integrity of the Chinese Empire," a movement in which the British Government should have taken the lead directly after the war with Japan. In the February issue there is a very interesting memoir of the late Count Katsu Awa, a hero of the Restoration, who died on the 16th of January at the age of 77. The writer says :—

The Count's residence at Hikawa was a favourite rendezvous of hero-worshippers and tale-mongers. His hospitality extended equally to great and small. It made no difference to him whether the visitor were a Cabinet Minister or a school-boy, a bearded general or a helpless woman. The Count invariably showed them into a small drawing-room of six mats, and talked volubly on politics, religion, economics, and the general features of society. His satirical criticisms founded upon his experiences, were cutting and to the point; every one listened with deep interest, striving not to miss one syllable. To him now great statesmen were mere children, while millionaires were nothing better than beggars. Greatness and riches were not worth a straw to this venerable satirist, who had

so calmly gone through many trying vicissitudes in his life. True, there have been numbers of "seniors," whose performances at the Restoration could be compared to those of Count Katsu, but nearly all of them were ambitious to the last, and shamelessly clung to power. None was ever so honest and so free from worldly ideas as the Sage of Hikawa. The reason why people regret his demise so much is not only on account of his past eventful labours, but mostly because no such moral character can be found elsewhere. In the Count Japan has lost both a hero and a sage.

Mr. Ariga Nagao suggests the following as the basis of the proposed collective guarantee of the integrity of China :—

(1) *Status quo* as regards rights and privileges already obtained by the Powers from China. That is the lease of Kiaochow obtained by Germany, Tientsin and Port Arthur by Russia, Weihaiwei and Kiung by England, the promise not to alienate any part of the regions along Yangtze-kiang, in the province of Fukien, etc., etc. are to remain valid as before.

(2) The six Powers guarantee individually and in combination the integrity of the Chinese Empire and regard as *casus belli* any attempt at its infringement on the part of one of the signatory Powers or of some third Power.

(3) In case one of the contracting parties wish to obtain in the future a lease or concession of a portion of the Chinese territory, notice thereof is to be given to the rest of the signatory Powers and their consent obtained before proposing the demand to the Chinese government.

(4) If in the future a conflict occurs between China and one of the signatory Powers, of such a nature as to endanger the continuance of the present engagement, that Power has to ask for the mediation of the other Power or Powers before resorting to the use of arms, and it will be the right as well as the duty of the Power or Powers so asked to offer their mediation.

An editorial note in the March number says: "The last accursed session of the Imperial Diet was formally prorogued on the 11th inst. The people feel quite relieved, though far from hilarious. The atmosphere of the Hall of the Lower House has been found so impure and full of carbonic acid gas, as to be unfit for human breathing. This is very true, say more than two metropolitan journals, both in a physical and moral sense."

China. By Professor Robert K. Douglas. In cloth, 8vo., 456 pp. With illustrations and map. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1899. (5/-).

Professor Douglas spent seven years in China, very exciting years they were too, from 1858 to 1865. He has since been engaged in the British Museum, where he has been able to keep up his acquaintance with Chinese literature, and he is naturally regarded at home as an eminent authority on the celestial empire. It would take a brave man, even a braver man than Mr. Boulger, to compress China's four thousand years into 456 pages of small octavo, and this is all that the proprietors of "The Story of the Nations" series have allowed. In the first 130 pages Professor Douglas gets through the first 3,800 years of Chinese history, the next century is given 40 pages, and the remainder of the book is devoted to the last hundred years, which after all is to English readers the most important period. The history of the last hundred years of China's existence is very fairly summarised and is interestingly told, and there are a number of photographs of Chinese scenes dotted about the book with no special reference to the text. The map contains as much as can be expected, considering that it only measures six by eight inches. On

the whole we can congratulate Professor Douglas on having produced a very readable and trustworthy account of China, containing a great deal of information in a limited compass. There is a useful index, but surely in every book that purports to be a history, the current date should be printed at the top of every page.

From Peking to Petersburg. By Arnot Reid. With frontispiece and map. In cloth, 8vo., 300 pp. London: Edward Arnold. 1899 (7/6).

A portion of this book, giving a complete sketch of Mr. Reid's journey, has already appeared in our columns; that sketch has now been expanded into twenty-two chapters, and there are added to it a portrait of the author, a pleasant little dedication in verse to his wife, a useful index, and a fairly good map, showing the author's route. Mr. Reid writes well, and he has that most invaluable disposition for a traveller, a contented mind, and he writes appreciatively of all the various races, cities, and men that he comes across, so that he has made his book interesting to the mere casual reader as well as useful to those who may be thinking of taking the same route, or may wish to satisfy their curiosity on the subject of Siberia and its railway. Mr. Reid has nothing but good to say of the Russians, their kindness and their hospitality, and he has a very high opinion of the future of Siberia. He has too, as most people who know the Chinese have, a very high opinion of the people of China. He says:—

Taking him all round, I think that, of the non-European races that I know, the Chinaman is the best. He has not the intellectual subtlety of some Indian races, but he has a larger practical capacity and a greater thoroughness of character. He is a man of wide capacity for making, for earning, for saving, for spending, for enjoying. In these respects he is like the Englishman. I do not know any Asiatic race that is so straight as the Chinaman is. I do not say there is no dishonest Chinaman. There are many, and because they are men of capacity their dishonesty is apt to be on a large scale. But, taking the average of all the races of Asia, there is no race with which you can more safely make a contract. A Chinaman will do his utmost to get the best of the bargain before settling it, but having settled it, he will usually carry it out, though it is to his loss. In his own country, like all other Asiatic races, he has been accustomed for thousands of years to the practice of dishonest commissions. It is unreasonable to expect him to get out of that practice at once: but he is better able to get out of it, and to get out of it sooner, than a man of any other race in Asia.

Mr. Arnot Reid believes too, as they believe in Weihaiwei, and has been proved, that the Chinaman will make a good, if not the finest, type of soldier. "The Chinaman is twenty times the man that the *fellah* ever was. If you can drill the Egyptian *fellah* to face the Dervish onslaughts, you can drill the Chinaman to face any risks of war."

In a chapter on "Russia's Strength" Mr. Reid shows that it is most important for the development of Russia that armaments should be reduced or, at least, not increased. "It was perhaps about time," he says, "for the Czar to issue the Peace Rescript. A 'Truce of God' would conveniently allow Russia to consolidate her strength and overcome her weakness." In his last chapter, "What Should Britain Do?" Mr. Reid proposes an Anglo-American Protectorate of China; failing that, an Anglo-Russian Protectorate; failing that, Great Britain must take the Yangtze Valley.

Outports.

HANYANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

"MANDARIN BILLS."

Some weeks ago a writer in the Correspondence Column reminded us of the essentially mysterious nature of the Chinese sausage, and not a few readers up-country could vouch for the parallel fact of the essentially mutable nature of a Chinese cash-shop. Of late, the Viceroy being frequently reminded of the latter fact, has been doing a good thing for a wide neighbourhood, and we hope for himself, by issuing "Mandarin Bills" which are always at par, and in some country places above par, as meaning a saving in coolie hire where a dollar's worth in copper cash weighs seven pounds, and where there is much cash to be transported hither and thither. For some time, however, it has been rumoured that counterfeit notes are in circulation (recognisable by the initiated owing to a substitution of a certain small character on the back for that on the back of the genuine note). It will be a relief, therefore, for all users of these "Mandarin Bills" to learn that the

ARREST OF THE COUNTERFEITERS

is an accomplished fact. They were caught in the village of Maomia, near the town of Pehch'ien, in the Hanyang district, and are now undergoing trial at the *hsien yamen*. It is generally believed that their heads will fall, and as generally hoped that such drastic measures applied to the persons of Messrs. Lin and Liu will be an effectual deterrent to any others who may be like-minded.

As though to "keep the balance true"—that fundamental law of Chinese thought and literary style—the seizure of these offenders was followed by the

CAPTURE OF A COINER

of Mexican dollars; also within the Hanyang district. Till recently the coining of counterfeit Mexicans was commonly supposed to have been confined to the neighbourhood of the sea-ports. But it happens that a work is in existence (酬世羣芳) which by devoting one of its volumes to the tricks of coiners, for the sake of honest traders, does undoubtedly afford much useful information for coiners themselves who wish to learn the trade, and to produce Mexicans of quite passable weight and ring.

AS TO SMALL (COUNTERFEIT) COPPER CASH, everyone knows its circulation to be enormous. Indeed in parts, it forms almost the only currency in general use. The penalty for coining "small cash" is decapitation, but that penalty is seldom carried out. What generally happens is that the cash is both confiscated and thrown into circulation, as I know it to have been some years ago at a certain place within the Hanyang prefecture, where a raid was made on the coiners' den, and both men and coins were seized. The mandarin, however, finding that a man of high status had lent his name to the venture, dared not prosecute, but compounded matters by arranging for a four days' processional festival for the idols of the city; all expenses being defrayed out of the pile of small cash he had captured. I not only saw the processions but was able to assure those connected that no more appropriate method could have been devised than that of parading the counterfeit deities in the streets as champions of counterfeit coinage.

"SWEETS TO THE SWEET."

The last quotation is, I believe, generally associated with the more angelic half of humanity. And as it may be confessed, to-day's communication had its rise at a Chinese betrothal feast, where the recent particulars were related. It also happened

that the swain in whose honour we met, before venturing on his betrothal with the maiden he had never seen, wished to assure himself of two things. Did she stammer, as rumoured by the ill-disposed, and was her disposition as angelic as was reported by the middleman? He managed to ascertain both these points at once by

AN INGENIOUS ARTIFICE.

For having a relative who pursues the honourable avocation of Autolytus—his peddling, not his knavery—he got the said relative to hover around her door with

"Pins and poking-sticks of steel.

What maids lack from head to heel :"

and when the maiden in question emerged, to cry, "You owe me forty cash, Miss." Whereupon, in calm and dulcet tones, free from stammering as from clamour, she replied, "That cannot be, for I have never seen you before." We can only hope that the future man and wife may be as happy as he is ingenious and she sweet-tempered.

20th April.

ICHANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TROUBLE

has broken out at Lichuan and Chiensi in the Prefecture of Sian. The gong has been sounded through Ichang calling on the householders to bring out their spears and banners and fasten them to their doorways. Soldiers are being dispatched from the camp here to the disturbed districts.

GOOD REPORT FROM HUNAN.

I had a visit of two men from Hunan, who reported everything peaceful and no rumours. They had been out on a book-selling expedition and experienced less opposition than formerly.

NAVAL NOTES.

H.M.S. *Woodcock* arrived here on Saturday and is quite an object of interest. There is much need of her presence here and on the upper river, where fresh troubles have broken out.

The *Est* left on Monday afternoon for Hankow. As she left a photograph was taken of the two gunboats by the local photographer.

THE JAPANESE STEAMERS.

We are now looking for the new Japanese steamer. The godown of the Company is being put into order and the Company's sign has been put up at the office door—the Osaka Mercantile Company.

AMUSEMENTS.

The Recreation Grounds were opened last Saturday and a goodly number turned out to enjoy a first game at tennis. Play has been stopped through rainy weather. The weather is very changeable, some days are broiling hot, then follows an outburst of rain. The country people are very anxious for dry weather for the ripening and securing of their grain and for the sprouting of the recently sown rice.

TRAVELLERS.

By the *Shui* came up five globe-trotters who got up as far as Nanto (20 miles) at the end of the Ichang gorge. By the *Kiville* arrived Dr. Hall for the American Methodist Episcopal Mission, Chungking.

REPORTED WRECK.

It is reported here that the last mission party that went up river has been wrecked, but no confirmatory news has been received. 19th April.

ICHOUFU.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE GERMAN OCCUPATION.

As indicated in my last letter, and confirmed by my telegram of the 3rd instant, the anti-foreign disturbances at this place have at length roused the German Government to action with startling effect. On the 30th of March a cruiser landed a number of troops, variously stated at from eighty to one hundred and forty, at a point near Jihchao city. They marched to the city only to find the gates closed. According to all classical precedents as found in the *Three Kingdoms* and other standard works, they should then have sat down, after soundly cursing the city and its official, and entered into prolonged negotiation. What did these unconventional barbarians do, however, but promptly insert a "long thin thing" through the crack in the gate and saw the bar of the gate in two, after which they rudely shoved the gate wide open and marched into the *hsien yamen* where they proceeded to make themselves very much at home, and at latest accounts seem to be in no particular hurry to leave.

SWIFT RETRIBUTION.

At the same time they landed a force of fifty or sixty men about one hundred and fifty *li* further south and thirty *li* north of Ch'ing'ou. These proceeded at once to the village of Hanchiats'un, one hundred and fifty *li* from the coast and seventy *li* south-east of this city. This was the place where the three Germans were attacked, as related in my last letter. They notified the people that they intended to burn the village, which they proceeded to do as soon as the inhabitants had fled. It seems that they burned about half of the place, which is a large and rather wealthy village. Next day they went back to the coast. They sent on to this city two proclamations in Chinese, one of which announced that they proposed to occupy Jihchao until the pending cases are settled, and the other stated their purpose to burn Hanchiats'un in retaliation for the attack upon the Germans.

THE OFFICIALS

here were very much frightened, and, as is usual under such circumstances, came to the foreigner for advice. We urged them to settle the pending cases at once, as the only possible means of securing the return of the Germans to Tsintao. The officer in command of the few troops which were here is strongly anti-foreign. He proposed to go out and meet the enemy. He thought that a few words from him would turn them back, but if they would not listen to reason then he would be compelled to use force! When the people heard that the Germans had gone back to the coast they at once concluded that they were afraid to face the redoubtable Major who made the above striking proposition.

Yesterday and to-day troops have been coming in from Tengkhoufu and Chefoo. There are now about two thousand soldiers in the city.

RUMOURS

of all kinds are flying about, and the feeling on the street is not as friendly as we would like to see it. In spite of the fright and profuse promises of the officials, we do not seem to be any nearer to getting our various cases settled than we were a month ago. The fatuous blindness of these men is almost past belief. Verily, whom the gods would destroy they first make mad, or, to answer the purpose even better, hopelessly conceited.

10th April.

NINGPO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

GOOD HARVEST: BRIGHT PROSPECTS.

Since last communicating with you, your correspondent has travelled through the whole of the Ningpo prefecture. In five different magistracies the prevailing feeling is one of peace and thankfulness, because the spring crops are so abundant. Great quantities of wheat are grown as well as the usual crops of beans, peas, etc. It is pleasing to notice that in the Ningpo prefecture, very little ground is devoted to the cultivation of opium, compared with the southern portion of Ch'kiang. In fact, this year many acres have been reclaimed for food-stuff, because of the high price of rice, and the increased market value of all the vegetables with which the Chinese like to give relish to their favourite cereal, make it almost as profitable as growing the poppy. The high price of rice is due, so the Chinese declare, not to any scarcity but to a "corner" being made by several large hong. The out-look for the year, however, is bright at the present time. The tea crop promises to be far better than last year's, and picking has already commenced.

THE ITALIAN DEMAND.

During the time the Sanmen Bay affair was so acute, your correspondent was in the near neighbourhood of the proposed Italian concession. The people were completely ignorant of the proposed change. Speaking at different times with certain military officials, they invariably displayed remarkable unconcern as to how the affair would end! It almost seemed as though they would be glad rather than otherwise, if a foreign Power would assume the Government of that part of the coast; for it is noted as being one of the most piratical nests in China. In all the remarks about the Italian demand, there has not been any reference to the island of Nant'ien which is next in size and ultimate importance to the chief island of the Chusan archipelago. This island, situated only six miles from the important town and roadstead of Shihp'u, would most certainly be included in any concession such as was originally demanded by Italy. The *Yungpao*, a Chinese newspaper which was established in Ningpo last winter, has tried to keep the people informed of the progress of events, its latest effort taking the form of a map of the part of the coast which would be affected by any concession to the Italians.

THE SILVER HILL TROUBLE.

The trouble about mining the Silver Hill near to Sungao, has been temporarily settled by the Sungao Clan paying a fine of \$1,300. Having recently visited the village and heard the opinions of people, your correspondent is convinced that before the hill can be definitely worked, some agreement must be arrived at with them, otherwise serious trouble would again arise.

THE BRITISH DEAD AT CHUSAN.

A very fine memorial stone is being prepared by workmen in Ningpo, which will, when finished, be erected in the British Cemetery, Chusan. The inscription is as follows.

"To the Memory
of the Officers and Men
of

Her Britannic Majesty's Navy and Army,
who Lost their Lives

in the Occupation of Chusan, A. D. 1841 to
1844.

Cemetery restored by British Nation, 1898."

27th April.

PEKING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE GERMANS IN SHANTUNG.

Despite some bitter criticism of the German methods of civilising the people of Shantung, there is no perceptible increase of anti-foreign feeling in this indescribable city. Comparatively few, even among the officials, know that the German authorities (the only real authorities) in Shantung have arrested a number of the *literati*, *alias* gentry, of Jihchao, and will hold them as hostages until the real perpetrators of the outrages on Catholic priests are adequately punished. The local officials, following venerable precedent, assert that it is impossible to discover the guilty parties; said devotion to precedent does not touch the heart of the Germans, so they have decided to hold Jihchao until all their demands have been complied with. In order to effect this and to avoid risk, they have sent quick-firing guns, and—it is believed—reinforcements, in order to be able to push the matter through in genuine Teutonic style. Since we heard the above the news has come of the

BURNING OF TWO VILLAGES

in Shantung by the German troops. The inhabitants of these places were considered responsible for the recent attempt to murder three German travellers, and it was deemed wise to inflict heavy punishment upon these would-be murderers and their abettors in order to divert their minds from any further generation of mean iniquities. Whatever may be said in extenuation of this resolute method of education, the Chinese regard it as sheer, wanton barbarity. To burn down villages belonging to a friendly Power, and to imprison men against whom nothing criminal has been proved, is in celestial eyes a contravention of international, and, in fact, of all law and justice whatsoever. Village-burning as a punishment for the perpetration of atrocities has been regarded as a justifiable form of correcting the eccentricities of savages. But while the Chinese might not seriously object to such operations in Borneo, Burma, or Africa, etc., they are simply appalled at the sight of foreigners treating the people of the "province of the great sages" as if they were nothing but

INHUMAN BARBARIANS.

A foreign gentleman argued the case with a mandarin residing here, and maintained that the people who attacked inoffensive German travellers were little if anything above the grade of savages, and that the vengeance taken was none too severe. "What," he asked, "do you think of the action of your own people in that case?" "Well," the official replied, "it was certainly not in accordance with propriety, but the retaliation practised by the Germans was outrageous savagery." Lovers of definition should in future describe attempts to murder foreigners as simply "lapses from propriety," while heroic correction of such transgression should be styled "savage vindictiveness!" Everything, as usual, depends upon the point of view.

THE SITUATION IN SHANTUNG.

Leaving the niceties of technical, legal definition, it may be doubted whether when you have made people fear you ten degrees more and hate you a hundred times more, much has been done toward ensuring future peace and harmony. But the Germans are metaphysicians as well as soldiers, so we must assume that they have weighed all such considerations and are prepared to accept the consequences of their action. Meantime, the people in the disturbed districts of Shantung are dangerously anti-foreign. At present they are more bitter than ever, and great care will have to be

exercised, if further and more serious outbreaks are to be prevented. By the latest reports, the American missionaries were all safe.

THE REWARD OF FOOLISHNESS.

It should be noted, that for many months, the German and American authorities have been urging the Tsungli Yamén to attend to the troubles in Shantung, but that inert body could by no means be induced to take effective measures. So much for the wisdom of the Government—or despot—in appointing “eleven fools” to manage China's foreign and domestic affairs at the present critical juncture. Still, the *St. James's Budget and Saturday Review* tell us that the Dowager Empress is the only wise and strong person in the country, and that we should remember this fact with gratitude. Well, we must try to do so, but Josh Billings said: “It's as well not to know so much as to know so many things that ain't so.”

GERMANY ACTS WITHOUT TALKING.

Report says that the Germans are resolved to insist on obtaining the privilege of working mines and building railways throughout Shantung, also of controlling the collection of all the likin duties there. If this does not mean that the whole province is already regarded by Germany as her sphere of influence, it is hard to say what it does mean. While England and America have been talking about the “open door,” the Germans and Russians have banged it open and taken possession of a considerable share of the goods in the house. An open door encloses nothing. If the British authorities had been awake last summer, they might have easily secured not only the permanent opening of every door in China, but the integrity and thorough reformation of the empire. That chance has gone for ever. It is the time now to accept the next best thing, and if this is not soon done the opportunity will speedily be irretrievably lost.

THE LEGATION GUARDS.

All the Legation guards have left Peking—except those at the German Legation. They are retained because the German authorities understand the situation better than most of the other Powers.

LI P'ING-HENG,

the Governor of Shantung who was dismissed last year at the instance of the Germans, is not going to return to office, despite the wishes and consequent predictions of his benighted admirers.

THE NOTORIOUS EUNUCH,

Li Lien-ying, is still in high favour, and in conjunction with certain Manchu magnates is continuing to set favours, and increase his ill-gotten hoard.

THE ITALIAN SYNDICATE

has secured new and valuable concessions in Shansi, adjoining their previous possessions—or leasehold property.

THE UNIVERSITY.

New buildings are in process of erection at the Imperial University, as the present accommodation is insufficient, and there are over 300 applications from students desiring to study there.

THE YELLOW RIVER.

The “Mammoth” Committee has evolved the anticipated mouse, and spared the Yellow River to continue its annual devastations of Shantung. This collection of all the Tory fossils of Peking met and decided to use native methods for the river conservancy works, so the army of parasites—mis-called “River Works Officials”—are sure of another term of laziness and speculation. Is it any wonder that some of the most intelligent among the Chinese people say, as a gentleman did to me yesterday, “The division of our country is inevitable, and in the interest of our people, the sooner it comes the better?”

LI HUNG-CHANG

is in good health and busily enjoying himself in the bosom of his family. Whether he will enter the Grand Council or the Tsungli Yamén is uncertain. If he manifests his usual shrewdness, he will break a leg, or cultivate an ailment of some sort to ensure his exemption from official duties, for if he goes into active work again his future comfort and safety will be in great peril. To a friend, Li expressed the fullest confidence in the Peking Syndicate, and perhaps no one is better qualified to express an opinion as to its prospects. Millionaires of Shanghai, please take note.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

His Excellency was talking with the Dutch Minister the other day, and inquired why China had not been invited to participate in the Peace Conference next month at the Hague? The Minister was puzzled, but finally said he would telegraph to his Government about it. He did so, and promptly received instructions to ask China to send a representative. Probably the Ambassador to the Court of St. James will be selected for this honour, but whoever goes, it is certain that he will be fully as zealous in urging disarmament as the Great White Czar himself. China wants peace—and a great deal beside.

THE WEATHER

in Peking is beautiful, but our foreign residents continue drifting to Peitaho and the West Hills. Meanwhile, our streets are keeping up their reputation for stenches, not to mention just a few “well-defined stinks.”

THE EMPEROR

Lastly—and appropriately, considering than instead of being the first man in the Empire, Kuang Hsi is now the last—it is reported that the health of the Emperor is “as usual.” What that is, no one knows. “Uneasy lies the head”—that has lost a crown! But perhaps not uneasier than the head that has stolen it.

M. A.

24th April.

TIENTSIN.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

met last Wednesday to consider the reply of the Steamer Companies about the shipping of export cargo. As was fully anticipated, the Companies refused to budge one mite from the position taken up a fortnight ago. The Chamber, after a final expression of its regret, proceeded to other business: the merchants there in their non-corporate capacity remained behind to discuss the situation. The proceedings were of course private, but it is an open secret that they resolved on inviting opposition to the “Pool.” On dit the Chairman urged the expediency of deliberation and of not taking precipitate action, but the meeting got the bit between its teeth and overruled this counsel. It is understood that communication has been opened with two Hongkong shipping firms and with the Japanese, and that they are to be invited to send steamers to the port. The opposition is not to be confined to the coast steamers, but is to extend to the P. & O., the Glens, and Blue Funnel so far as to ship no home cargo by them.

The whole situation is interesting and is rendered more so by the state of the Peiho. The existing fleet has been built to meet the exigencies of Taku Bar and the River; the ordinary coast vessel may find the former difficult and the latter all but impossible. The Taku Tug and Lighter Company sits tight on the situation; in its corporate capacity it is unaffected by the change. It will have to engage coolies at the Bund to ship the out-going stuff, and to tranship it at Taku, and, as a natural con-

sequence will have to raise its tariff. The chief shareholders of the Company are the shippers, and they will have to meet the enhanced expense and responsibility.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RIVER,

if sustained, will obviate all difficulties. Should the stream become navigable even to a few of the handiest vessels, the differences between the big Companies and the shippers would dissolve like the baseless fabric of a vision and leave not a wrack behind. Altogether the export cargo is not very big; it would not require the presence of a Leviathan at the Bund. Two or three medium-sized steamers per week could cope with it except at very busy times.

Meanwhile it is pleasant to state that the river has steadily improved this spring, and that, too, at a time when it is usually on the down grade. On Thursday last, 13th of April, the *Shengking*, got up easily on 8 feet 10 inches (even keel). Unhappily she tried to turn too soon on the downward voyage and got athwart the channel. She remained there for two days and a-half, thereby blocking the way for two steamers coming up, and deterring others from the attempt. The *Kuangchi*, however, crept past her and got up and down with facility; the *Poochi* did not attempt to pass. We are all extremely disappointed at this mishap. The big ship's presence at the Bund was hailed with enthusiasm as it seemed about to restore us to the dignity of a sea-port. Tientsin is not the same place when the ships don't come to the Bund. There is a general belief that the churning of the propellers of the big boats helps the scour, and it is feared the *Shengking's* experience may issue in losing this assistance.

THE GREAT CASH QUESTION

although still acute seems to have reached bottom; the exchange has taken an upward tendency. After touching 775 to the Mexican it is now 810. Runners were out from the *yamen* last week proclaiming the taboo of bad cash, from a plethora of which Tientsin has suffered for years. All the coinage villanies of the Province have ever centered here, and this is doubtless one of the many causes of the cash evil. Heavy exports to meet the wages of coolie-labour, up at the Russian railway works near Newchwang is probably another; hoarding in the prospect of a further fall, a third.

The historic quarrel between the right and left hand was exemplified in Tientsin last week when the authorities of the China Engineering and Mining Company came to loggerheads with the

RAILWAY COMPANY

over the death of an employee of the former. He was killed by a locomotive, and more *Sinco* the driver was at once arrested and held responsible. Things were smoothed over before the one face common to both parties was lost. Things at the Tientsin and Tangu Railway Stations are really appalling. A week or two ago I saw a Cantonese, who had been in hospital all winter with a broken leg, being taken to the station on a stretcher to be sent home by steamer. The mob of filthy curious hangers-on—thieves and bullies if chance is favourable—crowded round, hustled the bearers, and knocked the poor patient off the stretcher with such violence that his leg was re-broken worse than ever. The European doctor in attendance was helpless in the presence of numbers. It never seemed to have occurred to the directors to enclose their premises and rigidly exclude the unwashed who had no business there.

The last social function was a

BICYCLE GYMKHANA

given by the T.B.C. on the Recreation Ground on the 11th of April. The whole thing was an aesthetic treat, and aroused very great interest in the community by its novelty and intrinsic merits. The programme was dual throughout every event being contested by ladies and men for separate prizes. The ladies' prizes by-

the-by were presented by Colonel Wogack who is himself a keen cyclist, and whose absence in Port Arthur was the one thing which prevented the cup of satisfaction overflowing. The events consisted of tilting at the ring, driving the polo ball, bucketing balls from standards, slow race, threading a maze of pins, pair racing (accompanied by needle threading, etc.), and a quadrille.

There was a very large assembly of on-lookers, and the proceedings throughout were watched with an interest and an appreciation which threw Racing into the shade. The lady competitors especially were received with acclamation and most deservedly so; for quite apart from the language of compliment they certainly were the better part of the whole function; in speed only were they inferior to the men, in grace, precision, and steadiness they more than held their own, a result entirely due to conscientious and assiduous practice during many weeks. The ladies, moreover, were in an exceedingly neat serviceable uniform. Mrs. Ross Thomson and Miss Massey tied for the combined-events prizes defeating Mrs. Denby by one point, and Mr. de Linde and Mme. Vidal by ten. Mrs. Thomson received the "Maze" prize, while the same lady and Mrs. Denby shared that of the team-racing, which also resulted in a dead heat, the two cyclists (one cannot say chevaliers) gracefully retiring in favour of the opponent's lady. Mr. Buchheister took the combined-events for the men, and made a dead-heat with Mr. J. Stewart in the "team" event. Mme. Pichon was victor in the Maze.

There can be no doubt that the show will give a fillip to cycling in the Port, as it is our first ocular demonstration of the sporting capacities of the wheel. The whole committee would unite in assigning most of the credit to Commandant Vidal, the Captain of the Club; he, and Mrs. Thomson, Hon. Secretary, have simply been indefatigable in their efforts to advance the interests of the members and promote their comfort.

GENERAL.

Two or three additional engineers have reached Tientsin this week for the Newchwang line (construction work). There is now an unprecedentedly large staff outside the Wall, and Newchwang will probably be in railway connection with Tientsin before the close of the century. In the not distant future we shall probably go over the metals of this line for Calais.

PERSONAL.

Mr. F. Wilkinson leaves the Consulate in Tientsin to take charge at Chinkiang. He is to be succeeded here by Mr. King on his return from Europe. Mr. McKinnon having passed the *pupa* stage of consulship is now transferred to Foochow and is succeeded by Mr. J. L. Smith from Peking who also emerges from chrysalis. Mr. A. E. Hippisley leaves this week on furlough, and is succeeded by Mr. E. B. Drew, who is expected from Canton in a few days.

Commandant Vidal after a tour in China returns to France *via* India this summer.

18th April.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

OCCULT AND SPECULATIVE.

It is not generally known that Captains Yeh and Su, the senior officers of the Peiyang, were a fortnight ago summoned to Peking, and this week on two separate days, Monday and to-day, had audience with the Empress-Dowager and Kuang Hsi. They are promoted to brevet rank, the former Rear-Admiral, the latter Commodore. In passing through Tientsin, these gentlemen had prolonged interviews with the Viceroy and the Naval authorities. Those most competent to form an opinion think that their mission to the North bears on the question of cessions to Italy and smaller Powers. The Chinese are talking very deliberately of resisting force by force under

certain contingencies. Nothing that has happened since the Japanese War has aroused so keen and bellicose an interest as the recent proposal about Sanmen. Speculators will differ much in the opinion whether the invertebrate officials of Peking have any foreign backing in their present desire to resist aggression.

THE ANGLO-ITALIAN

commercial venture is being sedulously pushed, and skillfully steered. The last recruits are such incompatibles as Mr. Geo. Jamieson and Li Hung-chang: the former has joined the Directorate, the latter has wired for £4,000 of scrip. One cannot but admire the wisdom of enlisting such services; for both are long-headed clear-visioned men and their co-operation in the great venture will be regarded by many both as an invaluable guarantee of probity and an assurance of future success. The scheme just requires the financial and administrative adjutancy of Chang Yi to put an artistic finish to it: and who knows, but this may yet come.

THE CASH QUESTION

is still acute, but less so than last week. The Chamber of Commerce memorialised the Viceroy on the subject and made very definite suggestions:

(1) Dollars and subsidiary silver coins down to ten cents to be legal tender at the rate of 1,000 cash to the former.

(2) Abolition of cash on the Railways and compulsory use of silver coinage.

The Chamber suggests that the appreciation is due to enhanced price of copper and the consequent illegal melting of cash; it also hints that hoarding on a large scale is going on. It points out that the authorities of Fengtien some time ago put matters on a stable basis under similar circumstances by measures like these now proposed. I am informed that Yü Lu is eager to obviate the present distress caused by the cash question; his one fear is that unwise meddling will intensify the evil. It is pleasant to chronicle that things seem at present to be getting no worse, though they are bad enough when the dollar exchanges for 790.

THE DOG-FIEND

is with us as a sort of reflex of Shanghai anxiety. The two British Municipalities are about to tax poor Tray (one dollar per year), to insist on him carrying his license, to impound him where found nomadic and masterless, and to destroy him if unknown and unclaimed after 48 hours in limbo. It is to be hoped that our French and German neighbours will adopt similar wise precautions. It is only by systematic and continued police supervision that wonk and mongrelism can be kept under.

WATER AND LIGHT.

The Tientsin Waterworks Company has obtained permission to invade the Municipal Extension and will lay its mains therein next autumn. It is reported that our French friends are to utilise their handsome financial surplus in installing electric light this year.

CHINESE ATHLETES.

The foreign education of Chinese makes steady progress. The students of the Tientsin University are going to hold their first athletic meeting next month and have issued a comprehensive programme on the usual lines—perhaps with an overdue proportion of the comic element (egg-and-spoon, sack, arithmetical races) but this is pardonable. They have done more, they have kindly invited the students of the Naval College to come over and join with them. A friendly challenge was sent, and there is every chance that it will be accepted. *E pur si muove.*

CRICKET

has been started with good prospects. Last Saturday saw the old eleven play fourteen newcomers and beat them; to-day the Benedicts played the Bachelors. If Shang-

hai honours us by sending up a team, with ordinary luck we should be able to show good sport; but cricket is a terrible subject for prophecy.

RACING.

Forty odd griffins have been in evidence so far, but as the entries close to-day, we shall at once see a big diminution in this number. Peking owners are well represented, the last entrant being Mr. Bax-Ironside, our *Chargé d'Affaires*.

PERSONAL.

Our consular changes are now complete, almost artistically so. I have already noted the imminent departure of Messrs. Wilkinson and McKinnon for Chinkiang and Foochow respectively, and the fact that Messrs. King and Smith are appointed to succeed them. We now hear that we are to lose our Consul, Mr. B. C. George Scott who goes as Consul-General to Canton. Mr. Scott has been warmly and widely congratulated on his promotion, and Canton's gain will be Tientsin's loss. Mr. Scott during his two years of office has gained both the esteem of all and the regard of a large number of friends who take his departure with very mixed feelings. In his formal and informal duties he has been a model Consul, accessible, always on-board, and very willing to help. Mr. Scott is to be succeeded by Mr. W. R. Carles; this gentleman is not personally known to the present generation of Tientsinners. His consulate will be novel in one respect that we shall for the first time in six or seven years have a lady in residence. Our Methusalehs and Old Fatts can alone recollect the presence of bairns in the big compound; we are also promised these. Finally the Consular Constable, Mr. W. Parker, is also leaving; he has been appointed Gymnastic Instructor in the Imperial Naval School in succession to the late Mr. W. Hawkes.

21st April.

WEIHAWEI.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE TAX MUDDLE.

The territory leased to the British government lies for the most part in Weutenghsien (文登縣), but a certain portion lies in Yungchingsien (榮正縣). As mentioned in my last, the British authorities issued a proclamation forbidding payment of taxes to the Chinese officials within the leased area. This was shortly followed by one from the local magistrate, a *St* (司), forbidding any interference with the former proclamation. So far the British authorities have not issued instructions as to how or when the taxes are to be paid. Meantime the natives are in a dilemma, for it is said, the Yungching magistrate has issued an order to the village headmen urging them to collect the taxes as usual, enquiring the cause of the delay, speaking of the contents of the British proclamation as "rumour" (謠言) and undertaking that the taxes will not require to be paid a second time under any circumstances. This order is what is called a *Yü-tieh* (諭帖), and whilst your correspondent has not seen a copy himself, his authority for this statement is fairly good. Taxes in this locality are collected by a headman (地方), the heads of families taking the duty in yearly terms. This headman is permitted to charge a small sum for the receipt which he brings back to such taxpayer from the *hsien*—say about twenty cash, sometimes less. So the business is not lucrative, and like the sheriff of an English county, the *ti-fang* stands to lose money. One of these men is said to have been beaten for failing to make his returns since the aforementioned proclamation was

issued. The Yungching magistrate has only an acting appointment there, and is about to be removed. As his share of the taxes amounts to something like twenty-five per cent, he is naturally anxious to make what he can in the little sunshine left to him. Moreover, natives themselves have no idea of the limits of the British territory; no proclamation defining them has ever been effectively issued, and even had that put out by the high authorities some months ago been circulated, who is to say how far thirty *li* from the Weihai Bay shore extends? Here, as elsewhere in China, a *li* is more or less 'accordingly.' It is to be hoped the authorities will shortly put an end to this very unsatisfactory state of things.

FOOD-STUFFS

increase in price. Maize, imported from Manchuria, is the principal grain used. Five years ago it sold at about sixteen cash per catty, now it fetches say thirty or thirty-two. At what figure must prices stand before it will pay to import from America? Could not a cargo be made to pay at present rates? It would find a ready market. The new magistrate at Wentung has issued a proclamation offering to distribute one hundred "passports" (護照) to the merchants here, to enable them to obtain grain at places where its export is at present prohibited.

EPIDEMICS.

To add to the troubles of the people, there is an epidemic of measles abroad, with a high infant mortality. Some other disease of a gastric character (發燒, 頭疼, 瀉肚,) is also epidemic.

BUILDING.

An architect has arrived to build summer residences on ground purchased on the mainland by a Shanghai syndicate, not far from Flagstaff Point, on which the North lighthouse is built. It is said that building lots have also been purchased in Half Moon Bay which lies about two miles from the *ma'tou*.

REPORTED GOLD MINES.

It is stated, too, that a Shanghai syndicate has lately purchased some gold mines in the neighbourhood and that work on these will shortly commence.

POSTAL GRIEVANCES.

The most sanguine could hardly say that the Post Office gives satisfaction. A more frequent delivery, with an occasional saving in time when a steamer calls with a bag for the Weihai office on board, will probably sum up its advantages. But, so far, no arrangement seems to have been made for the European mail for Weihai to come by direct steamer. Certain it is the last English mail went up to Chefoo, though two steamers came in from Shanghai that morning, one of them bringing the mail for the fleet. It seems absurd, however, to charge domestic postage on some international mail papers, belated, and brought in by direct steamer a few days later; whereas the same papers would have been delivered free in Chefoo. Parcels, too, were charged double domestic rates by direct steamer; single rates only are levied in Chefoo.

A HINT.

On the other hand, it is right to give praise when praise is due, and since the Imperial Post Office was instituted I have not lost a letter. Is that because I use French stamps, which are cheaper than British? Would our friends in Shanghai and elsewhere not do well to send their correspondence through the French Office, and so save a little money in these days of close cutting—besides, of course, saving the Hongkong Office not a little trouble?

NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

The *Alacrité* arrived to-day. The *Iphigenia* and *Phoenix* are the only other ships in harbour. The *Centurion* is expected to-morrow.

18th April.

NOTES FROM THE SOUTH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE GRAND "FIASCO."

If the function of hoisting the flag had been fixed for the 1st of April, we could hardly have been made to look greater fools than was the case on Monday last. The elaborate arrangements made, the vessels chartered, the picnics prepared, the holiday so widely announced all came to naught, save the last, for that remained, a sort of Sabbath, the calm of which was broken by a loud and general grumble. I have already recounted what was to have been. I will now state what really happened. Owing to the massing of several thousand Chinese on the hills above Tai-pohu and the burning of the matches on Saturday, His Excellency the Governor very prudently declared the invitations for Monday all off, and gave orders for the flag to be hoisted at Tai-pohu on Sunday. This was done at one o'clock p.m. and salutes fired simultaneously there and in Victoria Harbour. On Monday afternoon, in the presence of only a few spectators (the decision having apparently been arrived at very suddenly) the flag was also hoisted on Kowloon just outside the city, when the Governor delivered a speech, which was translated into Chinese, informing the people that their rights would be fully respected and none would be allowed to molest them, but that in future they would be required to obey the laws of Queen Victoria. I do not know whether proclamations in Chinese have also been issued in the New Territory, but they certainly should have been posted over its length and breadth as there is no doubt malicious tongues and pens have been busy misleading the ignorant villagers.

THE WAR.

During the whole week a sort of guerrilla warfare has been waged in the new Territory. The rebels (if such they can be called) have been out armed with rifles and field pieces and with uniformed soldiers among them, and several scrimmages have taken place in which the natives have come off very much second best. What their losses have been no one knows, but casualties have been frequent and some few prisoners have recently been taken. On the side of the British, Major Brown, A.M.S. was struck on the arm by a spent bullet, one of the Artillery officers has, I hear, been wounded, and several men of the Hongkong Regiment have been slightly wounded. Most of the fighting has been done by "Our very Own," who have acquitted themselves most gallantly, exercising great restraint, and marching through a difficult country with short rations and in wet weather. A naval brigade from the *Humber* and *Peacock*, under Lieuts. Hillman and Snowdon, has also done good service. The rebels have been easily driven from point to point, but they collect again elsewhere, and make a fresh stand. Above Tai-pohu they had made trenches and thrown up batteries. It is rather significant, as showing the insensate folly of enlisting Chinese into our service, that one of the prisoners taken is an ex-Submarine Miner of the Royal Engineers. I cannot think why this Corps was ever formed. It would have been just as easy to raise a second Corps of Malays in the Straits for service here.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

The Volunteers were called out on Sunday night last and mounted guard at Yumati, it having been reported that the rebels intended to make a descent over the hills. It proved a false alarm, but the utility of the Corps to assist the limited garrison was rather strikingly shown. A call for forty recruits has since been made, and proposals for the formation of Scottish and German Corps have been mooted. I imagine there will be some accession to the strength of the Volunteers in consequence of this disturbance.

THE GOVERNOR AND THE DISTURBANCES.

Sir Henry Blake has had a rather anxious time of it lately. If he has made mistakes I think they were due more to want of knowledge and appreciation of the Chinese character than from lack of energy. The Governor was up the whole of Saturday night, and has been hard at work ever since. Whether he has been well advised, time will show; but I am afraid some serious blunders have been committed. Why were not proclamations issued to reassure the people and anticipate the lying slanders which were sure to be propagated? Why were no steps taken to prevent the incursion of rowdies and soldiers from Tung-kun? But it is easy to be wise after the event. The main thing now is to avoid making further errors.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 18th inst. The Colonial Secretary was absent being away at Tai-pohu. Mr. Bellios gave notice that he would at next meeting, ask whether or not the Government intend levying Customs duties on all commodities, exclusive of opium, arriving in or leaving Hongkong. What the non-member is driving at I have yet to learn. More comprehensible were the series of questions he put relative to Dr. Doberck's attack on the Directors of the Manila Observatory, and the question of the education of European children at Kowloon. The replies to these questions were in effect that Dr. Doberck's action was unauthorised and disapproved, and that the order for the discontinuance of the typhoon warnings from Manila had, on representation from the Government, been rescinded. With regard to the proposed school at Kowloon the Secretary of State had withdrawn his approval of the necessary expenditure until the colony has made such financial arrangements as to show a surplus of \$100,000. The Council then considered a Bill to exempt the New Territory from the operation of certain laws. This Bill and another relating to local tribunals founded to a certain extent on the lines of the Ceylon Village Communities Bill, were introduced for the administration of the New Territory, and they were both read a first, second, and third time and passed, as was also one for the better regulation of the New Territory. The legislation is of course all of a tentative and experimental kind, which will be modified and amended, no doubt, later on.

RETURN OF A WELL-KNOWN RESIDENT.

By the French mail steamer, which arrived from Europe this morning, Mr. J. J. Keswick was a passenger for Hongkong. He comes to assume charge of the firm of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., on the departure of the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving which will shortly take place. I understand Mr. Keswick only intends to remain out for one year.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL NEW SHARES.

The unallotted shares of this company, lately offered to the public were all taken up, being indeed subscribed for nearly three times over at an average of \$75, and the quotation is now \$78 with an upward tendency. The intention is, I believe, to pay off half the loan of \$500,000, and then to raise debentures to a like amount, but only to issue half at present.

NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

Of naval news there is quite a dearth just now, and the white warships are growing scarce. On the 20th inst. the graceful little surveying vessel *Waterwitch* lifted anchor and left for Shanghai. On the 21st the gunboat *Swift* arrived here from Foochow. The French paddle gunboat *Bengali*, which has been a trip up the West River, arrived on the 20th inst. at Macao, and now lies moored across the narrow entrance to the Inner Harbour, and forms in that position an obstruction to navigation in that passage.

Hongkong, 22nd April.

LONDON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE IN AFRICA.

Complete satisfaction on all hands has been produced by the publication of the terms of the Anglo-French Agreement in regard to Africa. Lord Salisbury has scored heavily. He has obtained everything for Great Britain and Egypt which anyone in this country desired to claim, and he has obtained it apparently without forfeiting the good-will of France. The French Government of course put the best face they can on the Agreement. They naturally lay as little stress as possible on the fact that the line of posts which Major Marchand established in the Bahr-el-Ghazal have been abandoned and the whole of that province has been left within the British sphere of influence, and make the most of their acquisition of the "vast territories, which, under the names of Bagirmi, Wadai, and Kanem, form the eastern and western basin of Lake Chad." But they cannot conceal from the people of France the fact that the Agreement proves the Marchand Mission to have been from beginning to end a blunder, from which absolutely nothing has been gained. The people of France, however, though not deceived, are seemingly quite content. They are willing to admit the blunder, to acknowledge the justice of the claim of Great Britain and Egypt to the Bahr-el-Ghazal, and to be content with having secured by treaty what they might have been perfectly certain of having in any case—free access to the Nile through Anglo-British territory. The Agreement throws open a vast district in the spheres of influence of the two countries to the trade of both on equal terms, and settles on lines equally favourable to both a number of questions which might easily have led to ruptures. Altogether the Agreement confirms the already strong impression that the resolute action taken up by Lord Salisbury over the Fashoda question has paved the way for a more cordial feeling between the two countries than has existed for many years past.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LONDON.

The House of Commons has at last entered upon the discussion of the principal measure of the session. On Tuesday Mr. Balfour moved the Second Reading of the Government of London Bill, and immediately Mr. Herbert Gladstone, in a very forcible and eloquent, if not altogether convincing speech, moved its rejection. The differences between the two parties as to the measure do not really strike at its root, and Mr. Gladstone admitted that if it were not for the probability of a wholesale use of the closure he would have been content to let the Bill be read a second time and tried to amend it in Committee. The Bill proposes to divide London up into five-and-twenty or thirty boroughs, each with a Mayor and Aldermen and Corporation, but it still proposes to keep the London County Council supreme over all. Everyone admits that a certain amount of decentralisation is necessary, and that the Vestries and District Boards which now do most of the work which will devolve on the new Corporations ought to be transformed into more dignified bodies. The Liberals have no objection to making the Chairmen of Vestries into Mayors, but they complain that the Bill is designed to cripple the London County Council and to destroy the unity of London, particularly in the interests of the City of London. They remember the famous speech of Lord Salisbury, in which he declared that the County Council was suffering from megalomania, and announced the introduction of a Bill which was to cripple its powers and split up London into a number of separate boroughs. That policy was not carried out,

owing to the emphatic condemnation which London passed upon it at the County Council elections which took place just afterwards; but the Liberals profess to see in the present Bill a mere modification of that policy. That there are many details which will have to be altered in Committee is certain, from the attitude of several Conservative members; but there is no doubt that the measure will pass into law without any vital alterations.

OMDURMAN AND THE MAHDI.

The Sirdar's answer to Mr. Bennett's charges against British and Egyptian soldiers of having barbarously slaughtered wounded Dervishes in cold blood after the battle of Khartoum has at last been presented to Parliament and published, together with Lord Kitchener's reply to the strictures which have been passed upon him for the destruction of the Mahdi's tomb and the scattering of his bones. To the charges against the soldiers the Sirdar gives a most emphatic and indignant denial; and that denial will carry conviction with it to all impartial minds. But in regard to the Mahdi's remains, Lord Kitchener's reply is far less satisfactory. He has, it is true, an endorsement from Lord Cromer that "the destruction of the Mahdi's tomb and the removal of his remains elsewhere were political necessities;" but the reasons Lord Kitchener gives are not very convincing. He declares that the bones, except the skull, were dropped into the Nile, and that therefore they must be somebody else's bones which British officers and war correspondents are showing to their friends as relics of the Mahdi. He tells us moreover that the skull is now buried at Wady Halfa. He does not deny, however, that the head was given to General Gordon's nephew. It is not unnatural therefore to suppose that he really had it, and that he was only induced to give it up and allow it to be decently buried after it was found that there was likely to be a fuss about it. Lord Kitchener argues that the destruction did no violation to the religious feelings of the Sudanese because the Mohammedans execrate the Mahdi as a false prophet; and he urges that the act was necessary in order to prevent pilgrimages to the tomb and to deal a death-blow at Mahdism. The two arguments seem in some degree mutually destructive.

WEATHER AND SPORTS.

Our first spell of winter has come upon us just when the almanac tells us that it is spring. We have had a week of frost and snow, with just enough rise of temperature in the middle of the day—in London—to prevent the snow from lying. Almost the first flat race of the season was run in a snow storm, and the Oxford and Cambridge crews have been practising in the bitterest weather. There is much more interest than usual in the race which takes place to-morrow, not because the race promises to be a good one—for experts tell us it will be a very one-sided affair—but because there seems every probability that Cambridge will win her first victory for ten years. It is not that there has been any falling off in the Oxford men, but Cambridge seems to have a really magnificent crew. The betting has gone up to eleven to four on Cambridge and as it is a very rare event for the favourite at this rate to lose, the victory of the Light Blues is regarded as almost assured. Another sporting event which is attracting a great deal of interest is the Championship billiard match between Roberts and Dawson. Dawson is the first man who for more than a decade has had the temerity to challenge Roberts on equal terms. The match is for 18,000 up, and the men meet twice a day during the six working days of the fortnight which has been allotted for the game. The Argyll Rooms, where play takes place, is crowded every afternoon and evening. Last night,

at the end of the fourth day's play, Dawson had a lead of nearly 900; but he does not owe this excellent position so much to his own exceptionally good play as to Roberts's falling off in form, and most people expect the champion to romp in and win during the closing days of the match.

"LOCURINE."

Another interesting experiment has been made by the Elizabethan Stage Society in the production of Mr. Swinburne's *Locrine*. It is not quite apparent why the work of a living poet should be produced in the Elizabethan style, without scenery or accessories—without other accessories, that is to say, than very gorgeous dresses—but the Society has the excuse that Mr. Swinburne's tragedy was founded on the work of an Elizabethan playwright, on a play, indeed, which was at one time attributed to Shakespeare. *Locrine*, as all admirers of Swinburne know, is full of most melodious verse, but the verdict of those who were at Monday's performance is that it does not make an effective acting play. There is not enough action in it, and the elaborately rhymed verses are most difficult to deliver dramatically and intelligibly.

DEATHS.

The Rev. J. A. Spurgeon, brother of the famous preacher of the Tabernacle, and himself a Baptist minister of great distinction, died suddenly in a railway carriage on Wednesday. Birmingham has sustained a severe loss in the death at Jerusalem of Mr. Richard Cadbury, the head of the chocolate house. He was never active in public life, but he spent hundreds of thousands in charity, and devoted much of his life as well as his money to the welfare of the working classes. Lord Herschell's body was received in England on Monday, and after a most impressive service in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday, was buried on Wednesday at the village of Tincleton in Dorsetshire.

24th March.

PARIS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE DREYFUS CASE.

After a brief lull, hostilities have begun again over the Dreyfus case. The United Chambers of the Court of Cassation met on Tuesday for the first time to consider the affair, but the whole of the sitting was taken up by an application on behalf of Mme. Dreyfus for the disqualification of three of the judges. The application was based on a principle of French law which forbids any judge to decide an appeal in any case which may have previously come before him, either as judge or arbitrator. The three judges in question formed part of the Advisory Commission which recommended the Brisson Ministry not to proceed with the revision. There was consequently good reason to suppose them hostile to Dreyfus, and counsel for the appellant applied for their exclusion. The Court adjourned its decision until to-day. The anti-revisionists were furious, and declared that if the three judges are disqualified a verdict in favour of Dreyfus will not be accepted. This afternoon, however, the Court rejected the application on purely legal grounds. The decision is regarded in some quarters as foreshadowing a final judgment adverse to Dreyfus. Whatever the judgment may be, it is not at all likely to be given for some time, perhaps not until May.

The printed evidence taken by the Criminal Chamber fills 4,000 pages. Considerable difficulty may be experienced in eliciting the exact nature of the communication made to the members of the court-martial on Dreyfus. Then there is the

bordereau, concerning which the experts are hopelessly at variance. The legal question whether Henry's confession constitutes the *fait nouveau* necessitating a new trial must also be thrashed out. If, as is quite possible, the United Chambers send the case for re-trial by court-martial, M. Dupuy's "pacification" will vanish into thin air.

THE FRANCO-ENGLISH AGREEMENT.

for the delimitation of the Central African territories has been received with satisfaction here. Frenchmen regret, for sentimental reasons, that the scene of Marchand's chief exploits is to be given up, but they console themselves by the reflection that the other territories now recognised as French are much better worth having than the Bahr-el-Ghazal. Another great advantage of the agreement to France is that it connects her scattered tracts of land and gives her an uninterrupted right of way from Algeria to the Congo coast. France now possesses fully one-third of the entire African continent. North of the equator she has everything except Egypt, Tripoli, Uganda, Somaliland, Erythraea, Morocco, Liberia, and the small British and German tracts on the Upper Guinea coast. Here is surely enough to satisfy the vanity which is supposed to be a leading trait in the French character. The *Temps* is already asking what France is to do with all these vast territories, and confesses that it does not know. There is no reason why Frenchmen should not become good colonists, but at present the task for colonial enterprise is still lacking.

DO NOT GO TO PARIS!

Persons about to visit Paris would do well to wait awhile. At present the capital resembles an immense building-yard, thanks to the preparations for next year's Exhibition. The underground railway works are responsible for hundreds of heaps of earth and barricades of planks in nearly all the principal streets. New houses are being run up in all directions. The Esplanade des Invalides, the Champ de Mars, and adjoining open spaces on both banks of the river are so many wildernesses of scaffolding and girders. The sight is not a pleasant one to those who know and love their Paris. Many of its beauties have been irretrievably ruined for the sake of the Exhibition. Hundreds of the trees which do so much to ornament the city have been felled. The Trocadero Garden, one of the most charming in the city, is disappearing beneath a flood of bricks and mortar.

The Exhibition buildings do not appear to be in a very forward state. Only about two-thirds of the ironwork of the Alexandre III bridge is in position. The masonry of the two palaces near the Champs Elysées is completed, but the main entrance, on the corner of the Place de la Concorde, has only just been begun. Rumour has it that the Minister of Commerce and other persons in authority object to the design of this entrance and also to the lofty pylons at each end of the bridge. Hence the delay. Obviously a change in the plans at this stage would be an absurdity. There is barely time even to carry out the plan already decided upon.

THE EXHIBITION.

There will be a number of interesting "side-shows," though there will be no such striking novelty as the Eiffel Tower was in 1889. Perhaps the big telescope will be the nearest approach to the desired clou. This gigantic apparatus, by far the largest of its kind ever constructed, will be 200 feet long and weigh 21 tons, with a lens nearly 50 inches in diameter. As it would be impracticable to point such an immensely long tube at the sky, the telescope will simply be laid horizontally on a series of stone pedestals about thirty feet high. The telescope will point directly at a large mirror, 59 inches in diameter, on which

the reflection of the moon and other heavenly objects will be observed through the telescope. The mirror works on a pivot controlled by clockwork so as to counteract the effects of the earth's motion and keep the body under observation in the mirror. Clockwork is also used to give a rotary motion to the eye-piece, so that the intersection of the wires across the end of the tube maintains its apparent position in relation to the object. The lens is expected to give a magnifying power of 10,000, so that the moon, which is 238,000 miles away, would appear through the telescope as it would if viewed with the unaided eye at a distance of 24 miles.

MOTORS.

The beautiful weather with which Paris has been favoured during the last two months has given a great impetus to the motor-car craze. Everybody who is anybody in Paris society now drives his tricycle or his *voiturette*. Bicycles are being abandoned to the *proletariat*. The bicycle advertisements which used to occupy a great deal of space in the cycling papers have shrunk to very meagre dimensions, their place being taken by announcements of the merits of various kinds of burners, naphthas, motors, etc. Quite a trade in second-hand autocars has already sprung up, but owing to the expense of maintenance the pastime is not likely to become democratised—in Paris at any rate. The Czar is one of the latest converts, a petroleum motorcycle having just been constructed for his use by a Paris maker. The machine is, of course, built of the very best materials but is entirely without ornament except the Imperial arms on one of the handles. The tricycle will tow a small wickerwork car in which the Czarina is to take her place—when her Imperial husband knows how to drive.

24th March.

Peking Gazette.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

Specially translated for the North-China Herald.

20th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

The Court of Censors have presented to us a memorial on behalf of one Ho Chên-kuei, an M.A., of Hunan province, containing suggestions as to reformation in examinations for military degrees and in the organisation of the militia forces of the Empire. We hereby command that the said suggestions be sent to the Board of War to be embodied in its report upon the various suggestions of other officials on the same subjects; to be sent us for approval when prepared.

21st August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Appointing seventy-nine successful Tartar and Chinese licentiates to be expectant metropolitan officials of the 7th grade, and seventy-nine others, standing in the second class, to be either petty provincial expectants of the 8th and 9th grades, or assistant district-directors of studies. Liberty to choose either one or the other being granted by the Emperor, upon candidates presenting themselves before the Board of Civil Appointments on a certain day to be specified by the said Board.

(2) We have received a memorial from the Assistant Grand Secretary Sun Chianai, eulogising the steps taken by Wang Tsung-chi, First-class Secretary of the Board of Revenue, and others to form a society or club called *Hui Wen-t'ang*, with quarters in the Northern City of the

Capital, furnished at their own expense, with text-books, scientific models, etc., where, with the help of salaried instructors, they intend to commence studying Western books and to keep posted in present day events taking place throughout the universe. The memorialist suggests that the Imperial approval be made known to these earnest students in order to encourage others in emulating such praiseworthy examples. We gladly give our approval to the above-mentioned action of the said Secretary, and hereby authorise the memorialist to transmit the same to the persons concerned with the hope that many others will do likewise.

THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MODERN SCIENCES, AND COMMERCE.

(3) The Tsungli Yamèn memorialises on behalf of Kang Yi-wei, Second-class Secretary of the Board of Works, who presents a number of suggestions for the encouragement of agriculture beneficial to the husbandmen of China and a source of wealth to the country at large. Now, we recognise that the encouragement of agriculture and international intercourse in commerce are two of the most important sources of wealth to the Empire, to which end we did repeatedly send commands to the Viceroy and Governors of provinces to make all proper arrangements for the inauguration of modern agricultural works, Arts, and Sciences, and Commerce throughout the whole Empire, for the purpose of opening these several sources of wealth to the people. And we now ask these high provincial officials why it is they have up to the present delayed sending us reports as to what they have done to obey our commands thereon. The ten thousand sources of wealth are all obtained from Mother Earth. If we delve into the earth daily, we procure daily sources of wealth and sustenance, and through them commerce can be gradually extended from day to day; hence it is of great importance to teach modern methods of agriculture and trade to the people; to encourage artisans to take up modern sciences and arts—for in these will consist the future increase to the wealth and prosperity of our country.

China has always given great importance to agriculture, but there has never been appointed any Board or Bureau having the sole control over this branch of revenue; but there should really be one; and we therefore command that a special Chief Bureau of Agriculture, Arts, and Commerce be forthwith established in Peking, to the Joint Commissionerships of which we hereby appoint Tuan Fang, Taotai of the Chi-Ch'ang Intendancy of Chihli province, and the Chihli expectant Taotais Hsü Chien-ying and Wu Mao-ting [known to foreigners as "Woo Jim-pah," ex-Comptroller of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Tientsin.—Translator]. Tuan Fang shall be allowed to resign his Taotai post at once, in order to take up his new appointment. To give the three Commissioners a suitable *locus standi*, we hereby grant them the brevet Metropolitan 3rd rank. They are further allowed the privilege to memorialise us at any time on matters concerning the Bureau.

Again, there should be established in every district, subprefecture, and prefecture schools of instruction in agriculture; newspapers dealing with agricultural matters should also be established everywhere and modern labour-saving machinery and scientific farming, etc., introduced far and wide, while the gentry and wealthy landowners of every degree should be encouraged to try and learn modern scientific methods of husbandry. We desire also that every diligence and energy be applied to the study of Western mechanical science and international trade, and it shall be the duty of the Chief Bureau to diligently superintend the launching of the above industries. In each province the Viceroy or Governor

is commanded to establish a branch Bureau of Agriculture, Arts, and Commerce, appointing two or three progressive, well-informed, and honest members of the gentry and notables to superintend the same, and the said Viceroy or Governor of each province is required to report to us by telegraph the date of opening these branch Bureaux and the names of those placed in charge of them. As this is the beginning of a grand scheme towards progress and reform, we trust officials and merchants alike will combine with each other in launching it, working harmoniously and resolutely to make their labours a crowning success. The said Tuan Fang and his two colleagues must also work hand-in-hand with these Viceroy and Governors, thereby showing themselves worthy of the confidence reposed in them by the Throne. It is our earnest hope that we may soon see agriculture expand daily on these lines, so that there shall be plenty in the land for our people; and the arts and commerce increase from day to day, so that our country may be rich and strong once more.

(4) Tseng Kuang-han (Earl Wei-yi) is hereby appointed acting Junior Vice-President of the Board of Rites.

(5) Tê Hsing, former cashiered Governor of Kiangsi, is this day restored his decorations of the premier button and peacock's feather, with the brevet grade of a Provincial Treasurer. He is to act in conjunction with the Hanlin Compiler, Kuei Tu, as Commissioner of Mines in Fengtien province (Lower Manchuria).

(6) The Board of Revenue presents a memorial by the Expectant 3rd-class Board Secretary, Li Chin-yê, in which he charges Chang Ju-mei, Governor of Shantung, with making a false report when he was ordered by decree the other day to investigate into certain charges made against the Magistrate of Anch'inhien, Shantung, viz., cruelly treating the people and forcing them to subscribe towards the Chao Hsin Bonds, and denying the truth of said charges. The memorialist further states that, owing to the said Governor's false report, the officials in Shantung have become more audacious and exacting than ever in extorting money from the people under pretext of subscribing to the Chao Hsin Bonds, many poor people being compelled even to sell their ancestral acres to satisfy the rapacity of the officials, etc. Now it must always be remembered that, upon the institution of the Chao Hsin Bonds, we clearly commanded that our subjects were to have perfect freedom in subscribing or not to these Bonds. It was never meant that force or extortion should be exercised, and, if such charges as selling land under compulsion be true, the culpability of officials must indeed be serious. We therefore command the said Governor to make a more careful investigation than he has hitherto done and he is further commanded to forbid his subordinates from making these extortionate demands. We would also enjoin upon the said Governor to avoid the practice of trying to hide the faults of his friends and subordinates.

CHINESE SCHOOLS ABROAD.

The other day the Vice-President Liao Shou-hêng suggested that our Ministers and Consuls abroad should establish schools for teaching Chinese literature to the sons of Chinese doing business in foreign countries, in order that this country may have as many young men possessed of a good foreign education, combined with a knowledge of their own, as possible. The Tsungli Yamén was ordered to deliberate over the suggestion, and we are now in receipt of its report, which not only favours the said Vice-President's suggestion, but states that no time should be lost in establishing such schools, especially in the British and Japanese empires, owing to the large number of Chinese doing

business there, accompanied by their families. It is also recommended that the Ministers to Great Britain and France, namely, Lo Fêng-lo and Ch'ing Ch'ang, should engage competent translators to translate as many as they can of the most important books on the science of government, text-books for schools, etc., etc., for the instruction of all our officials in the empire. Proper attention, indeed, must be given, so that, while retaining elegance and clearness in diction, the translated books should keep to the strict meaning of the originals. These translations after being printed and published should, from time to time, be presented by the Tsungli Yamén to us for perusal.

Meetings.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council held in the Board Room on Wednesday, the 19th of April, 1899, there were present Messrs. J. S. Fearon, Chairman, F. Anderson, E. A. Hewett, R. Inglis, H. R. Kinnear, D. M. Moses, M. Rohde, E. B. Skottowe, the Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary. The usual formal business is transacted.

Departmental Reports.—The following are submitted and ordered for publication:—

VEHICLE INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR MARCH.

The Livery Stables have been regularly visited during the month, and the Ponies and Carriages carefully inspected.

Licenses Issued.

	1899.	1898.	1897.
Ponies	600	783	716
Carriages	465	624	574

Remarks.

The ponies, carriages and harness are in fairly good condition, but there is room for improvement.

Considerable trouble is still experienced with defective drainage. The stable occupied by Koong Yeh & Co. H326, Hoopoh Road will shortly be pulled down and rebuilt, and I have informed the owner that unless the premises are properly adapted for stable purposes, a license will not be issued. The ponies in the native stables continue free from glanders or any infectious diseases. 17 old and worn out ponies were disposed of at the Knacker Yards, Pahhsienjoh during the month.

E. J. BATTY,
Inspector of Vehicles.

WEEKLY POLICE REPORT.

Return of apprehensions, etc., made by the Police during the week ending 15th April, 1899:—

Offences.	No. of apprehensions.
Breach of Municipal Regulations	106
Burglary	2
Cruelty to Animals	1
Fraud	4
Furious Riding and/or Driving	2
Gambling	1
Larceny from Dwellings, etc.	48
Miscellaneous Cases	250
Ricsha Licenses suspended	655
Wheelbarrow „ suspended	73
Hand Cart	1
Beggars, Hawkers, and Ragpickers ..	443

Total number of persons coming under the notice of Police 1,586
Chinese dead bodies found in streets... 6
Stray dogs captured 326 |

PIERRE B. PATTISSON,
Captain-Superintendent of Police.

Land at New Rifle Range.—Report by the Engineer is considered on the cost of raising this land to make it suitable for a drill ground for the Volunteers, but it is decided that, both financially and in the interests of the S.V.C., it will be more expedient to permit the Corps to utilise certain portions of the Recreation Ground as heretofore and to make good annually

any damage which may be done to the ground.

North Soochow Road Bunding.—Application from Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. is read that the Council should undertake the work of bunding between the North Szechuen and North Honan Roads. It is decided that no financial provision exists at present for this work, but directions are given to have the footway made up in this locality.

Police—Foreign Constables.—The offer of Sir Andrew Reid, Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary, to second men for three years' service with the force is accepted, and it is agreed to apply forthwith for six men.

Native Troops in the Settlement.—Extract from the Police daily report of the 12th instant is read, in reference to which it is learnt that the Chinese authorities have on no single occasion made application for permits for the passage of troops through Settlement limits as promised by the Taotai. It is decided to forward a despatch, through the usual channel, informing the Taotai that if this precaution continues to be neglected the Council will consider the advisability of forcibly resisting such disregard of pledges given.

Land Assessment.—Acceptances of the Council's invitation to act as members of the Assessment Committee are received from Messrs. J. Prentice, F. M. Gratton, and J. Cooper.

Shooting Committee Incident.—The decision of the Special Committee of Enquiry is read and ordered to be forwarded to the Major Commanding and to the ex-officers interested, also to be published.

Shanghai, 19th April, 1899.

SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 16th ult. requesting us to enquire into the circumstances connected with the so-called "Shooting Committee Incident" we beg to inform you that after due consideration we have formed the following opinion:—

1.—That judged by military discipline, Mr. Rex's letter of the 7th September, 1898 to Major Holliday is insubordinate; and that even if coming from one equal to another, its tone must be considered reprehensible.

2.—That under Regulation 15 of the Volunteer Corps, the Council were within their right in withdrawing Mr. Rex's commission; but that it would have been more judicious to have given him an opportunity of explaining his conduct, and afterwards, if deemed necessary to have called upon him for an apology.

3.—That Major Holliday's action in requiring Mr. Rex to agree to sign an apology, drawn up by third parties, which he had not seen, was an error of judgment.

4.—That considering that Major Holliday felt that a gross affront had been put upon him by Mr. Rex in his letter of the 7th of September, it was ill-advised on his part at the meeting held on the 21st of September, to nominate Mr. Rex as a Member of the Shooting Committee.

5.—That Mr. Rex's letter of the 11th of November to Major Holliday is highly insubordinate.

6.—That taking into consideration that the Shanghai Volunteer Corps is not a strictly military force, it would have been better for the well-being of the Corps if the Council had reprimanded Mr. Rex for writing the letter of September 7th; and accepted the apology proffered in his letter of October 22nd.

7.—In order to prevent any stigma attaching to the names of the three persons implicated, we recommend that after they have tendered an apology deemed adequate by this Committee of Enquiry, they should have their commissions returned; and that in the interest of the harmony of the Corps, they should thereupon resign.

We are, Sir,

etc., etc.

BYRON BRENAN,
H. M. Consul-General.
R. J. MONTGOMERIE,
Captain R.N.
G. L. BROWNE,
Lieut. Colonel.

To the CHAIRMAN,
Shanghai Municipal Council.

Volunteers.—Letter from the Major Commanding is read, recommending that application be made to the General Officer Commanding H.M. Forces in China and Hongkong for the services of a Royal Engineer or Artillery Officer to report on the scheme of defence best suited to local requirements and to prepare plans in connection therewith. Decided to give effect to this recommendation.

River Conservancy.—Report by the Engineer is submitted, in which attention is drawn to the shallowness of the water, and generally bad condition obtaining in certain sections of the Grand Canal between Shanghai and Hangchow, notably at Kahsing, Kazay and Samen. While observing that the transport of granite from the Pingchiao Quarry is seriously hampered thereby, he points out that matters are gradually becoming worse and in this connection he completely endorses the views expressed by Mr. de Rijke in his recent report to the Chamber of Commerce, with regard to the urgent necessity for proceeding with the conservancy of the upper reaches of the river as soon as possible.

The Council decides to communicate this Report, with recommendations in the above sense, to the River Conservancy Board whenever the latter shall be definitely established.

The Meeting then adjourns.

SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The annual meeting of the members of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce was held on Thursday afternoon at the offices, No. 1, Kiukiang Road. Mr. W. D. Little presided, and there were present, Messrs. J. Chapsal, A. Korff, J. H. McMichael, C. Brodersen, A. Werth, Wade Gardner (Committee), T. Mikimoto, F. P. Ball, Vander Stegen, R. Inglis, S. A. Levy, E. A. Hewett, E. Davis, R. S. Freeman, R. Heinsen, C. M. Dyce, D. M. Moses, and Drummond Hay (Secretary).

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts, said—Before asking you to adopt the Report of your Committee for the past year, I will, with your permission, make a few remarks on some of the work and events of that period.

River Approaches to Shanghai and River Conservancy.—This important matter has had the earnest attention of your Committee. The revised scheme for the constitution of a Conservancy Board has recently been completed, and forwarded to the Senior Consul.

Extension of Settlement.—As remarked by your Chairman last year, this question is not in our hands, but in the words of the Report, I may say the subject has by no means been lost sight of. Last June we held a General Meeting of the Chamber open to the public, calling the urgent attention of the community to the necessity of supporting the Municipality by public action and expression of opinion. I observe in the British Blue Book on "Affairs in China, No. 1,1899" just to hand, that a full report of your meeting is recorded therein. We hope soon to hear that the efforts of the authorities concerned have been successful and that the looked-for extension may shortly become an accomplished fact.

Mail Services.—The attempt to effect some change in the present day of departure of the mail steamers has, so far, had no result. I understand, however, that the N. German Lloyd intend in October next to inaugurate a fortnightly service from Shanghai, their steamers leaving every alternate Saturday.

British Postal Rates.—We addressed a letter, as you will observe in the Appendix, to the Postmaster-General in Hongkong, on the 7th of February last, asking for

information, but so far that letter has not been acknowledged.

The Report refers to the resignation of Mr. Alford, who for three years so worthily filled the post of Chairman. Mr. Dudgeon assumed office for a short period, when he also resigned on the eve of his departure for home. The Chamber has been unfortunate in losing almost simultaneously the services of two such able and hard-working members of your Committee.

Gentlemen, I need not detain you further, the Report deals fully with our work during the past year, and with the correspondence attached will, I trust, be found interesting.

Accounts.—One heavy item, our contribution toward the exploration of Hunan, accounts to a great extent for the reduced, as compared to previous years, balance carried forward. We have 64 members as against 62. We would, however, welcome a further increase and at a somewhat more rapid rate than 2 per annum.

I beg to propose—

That the Report and Accounts, as presented, be accepted and passed.

Mr. A. Korff seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman said the next matter he had to bring before the meeting was the amended Rules, which had been drawn up by the Committee and circulated amongst the members. He called attention to Rule 19, in which the Committee had endeavoured to provide for the arbitration of disputes in commercial matters, and hoped to arrange a scale of fees that would be satisfactory to all concerned. He proposed that the revised Rules be accepted.

Mr. McMichael seconded, and the resolution was agreed to unanimously.

Upon the proposition of Mr. E. Davis, seconded by Mr. D. M. Moses, the following gentlemen were elected as the Committee for the ensuing year.—Messrs. J. C. Bois, C. Brodersen, J. Chapsal, Wade Gardner, A. Korff, E. A. Hewett, R. Inglis, James N. Jameson, W. D. Little, J. H. McMichael, J. L. Scott, and A. Werth.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE YANGTZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the above Company was held at the head office, the Bund, on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. J. M. Young presiding. There were also present Messrs. H. J. Such, E. B. Skottowe, Brodie A. Clarke, and J. S. Fearon (Directors), C. W. Hay, J. Henningsen, R. Inglis, M. Wolff, J. P. Roberts, W. H. Lunt, R. W. Mustard, Paul Brunat, F. Gove, C. W. Wrightson, A. Riva, C. Wilck, G. A. Matthews, J. Liddell, E. P. Wickham, L. Vander Stegen, and W. S. Jackson (Secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen:—The minutes of the last Ordinary General Meeting held on the 22nd of April last year having been printed and circulated in the usual way may, I presume, be taken as read, and with your permission the Report and Accounts to the 31st of December, 1898, that have been in your hands for some time, will also be taken as read, but before proposing the adoption and passing of the Report and Accounts, I should like to make a few remarks with reference to the same. The year 1897, I am sorry to say, has left us no profit, the running off of the risks still open at the date of the last annual meeting continuing as unfortunate as I then explained our previous experience of that year had been. Fortunately a substantial balance had been carried forward from former years,

amounting on 31st December, 1898, to \$122,600.86 out of which the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent on the paid up Capital or \$6 per share, is recommended, leaving \$74,600.86 to go forward, which is deemed ample to meet all claims appertaining to those years. The Working Account 1898 is much more satisfactory, for not only do the net premia show an increase of \$80,788.16, but the balance at credit is \$275,918.85 as against \$226,512.92 and the estimated claims on known losses and casualties are about \$117,000 against about \$163,000 the previous year. The claims already paid on this account amount to \$281,459.90 or 47.23 per cent of the net premia earned against \$280,154.62 or 54.33 per cent. Your Directors recommend carrying forward the whole of the \$275,918.85 at the credit of this account as it would be unsound policy otherwise to deal with any portion of it at present in view of our outstanding risks which however are less than they were this time last year notwithstanding the steady increase in the premia income. The percentage of Expenses to net premia is 17.18 per cent against 17.83 per cent last year. A considerable reduction has taken place in the balance at credit of Exchange and Investment Fluctuation Account, amounting to \$26,123.46 which as the Report states is owing to the depression at the end of last year of some of the Association's Investments, principally in the Sterling Investments. But, that it was temporary only is indicated by the revaluation we have recently made of those Investments, and which according to the latest available quotations have recovered to the extent of \$13,000—or 50 per cent of the sum written off on the 31st December last. Your directors are satisfied that upon that date all the assets of the association were fully worth what they stand at in the balance sheet. Of the \$186,711.48 due by agencies, premia in course of collection, and sundry outstandings about \$150,000 have since been received. It is of course too early in the year to say anything about our prospects for 1899 but so far as we have gone we have reason to be satisfied. Rates of premia show some signs of improvement and tariffs have been arranged for certain classes of business and it is to be hoped that the recent gales in the Atlantic and elsewhere, resulting as they have done in the loss of so many fine steamers and sailing vessels, will have the effect of improving rates and putting a stop to the "rate cutting" which has been carried on by underwriters for some years past. I don't know that I have anything more to say but if any shareholder desires to put any questions I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability.

Mr. Wilck—Have there been any steps taken to improve the rates?

The Chairman—There are some indications of rates improving. We can hardly say they have improved yet, but we see indications that attempts are being made by the powerful Companies at home who seem to be getting tired of further cutting down rates and we hope they will succeed in establishing slightly higher rates all round, which is all we wish.

No more questions being asked,

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts as presented by the Directors for the 12 months ending December 31st, 1898.

Mr. H. J. Such seconded and the resolution was agreed to.

The Chairman next proposed that a dividend of ten per cent, viz., \$6 per share, on the paid up capital be declared, payable at either the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China or the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to shareholders of record on the 15th of April, 1899.

Mr. Brodie A. Clarke seconded and the resolution was adopted.

Mr. C. W. Hay moved and Mr. J. Henningsen seconded the re-election of the Board until next ordinary general meeting of shareholders. Carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mr. P. Brunat that Mr. Augustus White be re-elected auditor for the ensuing year. This having been carried, the meeting terminated.

HALL & HOLTZ, LIMITED.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of the above Company was held on Saturday morning at the Company's premises, corner of Yuen-ming-yuen and Soochow Roads. Mr. J. D. Clark (Chairman) presided and there were present Messrs. H. J. Such, and W. Hayward (Directors), E. Nelson, (legal adviser), E. W. Tisdall, S. B. Remedios, Moffat, Geo. Osborne, E. Palmer, J. Quick, J. M. Guedes, and E. J. S. Colgan (Secretary), representing 1,732 shares.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, as there is a quorum present we will commence business, and I will now call on the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

The Secretary having read the notice,

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the Report and Accounts have been in your possession for some time, therefore, with your permission, we will take them as read, but before asking you to pass them I should like to make a few remarks. I feel certain that you will, with your directors, feel pleased with the accounts as printed. We have had the misfortune, since we last met, as you are all aware, of having our premises and stock totally destroyed by fire. When I say totally, I mean all our stock stored in the Nanking Road premises at the time of the fire, but we were fortunate enough to have some stock in the Soochow Road godowns besides some of our furnishing goods, as well as the bakery, which considerably helped us to resume business almost immediately after the disaster. I may mention that the fire occurred on Saturday night and on the following Monday we were doing business in our own premises here. Nevertheless it was an anxious time, for we had to set to work and find new premises suitable to carry on our business in a central position, and I think you will agree with us when we say we have been most fortunate in securing a place in the Nanking Road, next door to the old premises. Although we were fully insured, we have somewhat suffered in having to purchase locally to supply our customers; but, I think, considering the misfortune that befell us, we have come out of it fairly well, and it is extremely gratifying to your directors to be able to state that since our stocks have arrived we have been doing an excellent business, and, although we have been deprived of our old premises, we see no reason why we should not do a larger amount of business than we did in the old premises. We have been promised that a new and modern store shall be finished on the site of the old one in less than two years, and we hope shortly to be able to come to terms with our old landlords for a long lease of them, but if we cannot obtain the old site on terms that we can afford to pay, we must, of course, endeavour to obtain premises elsewhere. I am sure you will, with us, regret the death of our old friend Mr. Geo. Corner, who has been the auditor of the Company for many years. The vacancy caused by his death has been filled by Mr. Geo. D. Scott. I will now briefly refer to accounts. You will notice there is a falling off of \$18,000 in the gross profits, but the obvious reason of this is on account of our stock being destroyed, therefore we had to purchase, as I said before, locally to fill the orders that came in from our usual customers, but I am glad to be able

to state that our Company is now in a position to supply all goods from our own new stocks. Of course the net profits show a corresponding falling off. The salaries, as you will observe, show an increase of about \$4,800; this is owing to a light increase in our staff, and sundry advances which had to be made in salaries of some of our older employees. You will also observe that there is a large decrease in our rent account. The reason for this, is that the bakeries have been transferred to the Company's own premises here. There is likewise an increase under the heading of "Travellers, Tientsin Office, Passages, etc." of \$3,500, which is mostly owing to extra passages for our assistants. The Tientsin branch, I am glad to inform you, under the able management of Mr. Jacques, has done an excellent business, and as that place is rapidly growing we expect to see a still further improvement there. But the total expenditure for the year has only been increased by about \$4,000, and had it not been for the fire, the increased sales would have amply justified this extra expenditure. I will now refer to the balance sheet, although there is little need for any comment. The sundry debtors amount to somewhat more than last year, but I can assure you that these are considerably larger than we should like, and that this item is having the special attention of your directors, and we hope, with our increased staff, to have these figures materially reduced very shortly. There is, as you have no doubt noticed, an item "Reserved for Fixtures \$10,635." This I may mention, is the balance in hand at credit of Fixture Account, which will be gradually absorbed as the new fixtures are supplied. The Reserve Fund now stands at \$152,500, which is considerably more than the paid-up capital of the Company, and, in recommending a dividend of \$2 per share, your directors have not thought it necessary to use any of last year's profits in increasing this item. Our stocks being all newly imported, and as the property account is considerably within the value shown in the accounts, these items require no depreciation whatever. I may also add, gentlemen, that the prosperity of the Company is largely due to the energy of our employees. These, gentlemen, are all the comments I have to make, but should any shareholder present require any further explanation I will endeavour to give it.

No questions being asked,

The Chairman proposed, Mr. H. J. Such seconded, and it was agreed:—

That the report and accounts as printed and circulated be passed.

Upon the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Hayward, it was resolved:—

That the recommendation of the directors as to disposal of the profits be adopted.

Proposed by Mr. Geo. Osborne, seconded by Mr. Palmer, it was carried:—

That Mr. W. Hayward be re-elected a director.

Capt. Tisdall proposed, seconded by Mr. Quick, and it was carried:—

That Mr. G. D. Scott be appointed auditor for the ensuing year.

The proceeding then terminated.

REPORT.

The Directors herewith submit to the Shareholders the accounts of the Company for the year ended 28th February, 1899.

On the 26th November last, the Company suffered serious inconvenience by the total destruction by fire of their store premises and the stock contained therein, which, though insured, caused a partial stoppage of business. Temporary premises and new stocks have since been obtained.

The Seven hundred and Fifty (750) unissued shares have been taken up by the shareholders at \$30 per share, and the premium, equal to \$7,500, placed to Reserve Fund.

In November last, the Directors paid an Interim Dividend of \$2 per share, and there

is now a balance of \$19,763.78 available for distribution, which the Directors recommend should be disposed of as follows:—

A final dividend of \$2 per share	\$14,000.00
(Equal to 20% for the year)	
Carry forward to New Account	5,763.78

Directors.—Mr. Fred. W. Such resigned his seat at the Board in September last, and Mr. H. J. Such was invited to fill the vacancy, this requires your confirmation; Mr. W. Hayward retires in accordance with the Articles, but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Auditor.—The Directors regret the death of the late Mr. Geo. R. Corner, who has audited the Company's books for many years. The accounts have since been audited by Mr. Geo. D. Scott, who was appointed to fill the vacancy, and retires but offers himself for re-election.

Shanghai, 18th April, 1899.

J. D. CLARK,
Chairman.

WORKING ACCOUNT, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1899.

Dr.	\$
To Salaries—Foreign and Native	61,204.29
„ Rent, Taxes, Gas, etc.	9,434.19
„ Travellers, Tientsin Office, Passages, etc.	8,176.59
„ Printing, Medical, Postage, etc.	5,233.98
„ Trade Expenses	4,896.46
„ Interest Account	5,638.35
„ Fire Insurance	1,367.94
„ Directors' Fees	1,500.00
„ Doubtful Debts	4,000.00
„ Auditor's Fee	272.12
	101,723.92

„ Balance to Profit and Loss Account	27,732.19
	\$129,456.11

Cr.	\$
By Gross Profit	129,387.61
„ Transfer Fees	68.50
	\$129,456.11

BALANCE SHEET, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1899.

Assets.	\$
To Property Account	44,360.21
„ Factory Land	13,000.00
„ „ Building	27,000.00
„ „ Fixtures and Ovens	4,360.21
„ „ Stud and Vans	500.00
„ „ Stock on Hand	104,333.98
„ „ Sundry Debtors	164,827.48
„ „ Cash in hand	37,283.45
„ „ Share, North China Insurance Company, Limited	157.52
„ „ Suspense Account	408.16
„ „ Insurance unexpired	1,035.47
	\$352,956.27

Liabilities.	\$
By Capital Account, 7,000 Shares	140,000.00
„ „ Reserve Fund	152,500.00
„ „ Bills Payable	21,394.41
„ „ Sundry Creditors	7,431.30
„ „ Unpaid Dividends	1,231.00
„ „ Reserved for Fixtures	10,635.78
„ „ Profit and Loss Account	19,763.78
	\$352,956.27

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$
April, 1898	
To Final Dividend @ \$2.00	12,500.00
„ „ Reserve Fund	20,000.00
„ „ Written off Fixtures, etc.	3,000.00
„ „ Balance down	6,031.59
	\$41,531.59
November, 1898	
To Interim Dividend	14,000.00
„ „ Balance	19,763.78
	\$33,763.78

28th February, 1898.	Cr.	\$
By Balance	41,531.59	
	\$41,531.59	
By Balance down	6,031.59	
28th February, 1899.		
By Balance of Working Account...	27,732.19	
	\$33,763.78	
By Balance	19,763.78	
	J. D. CLARK	} Directors.
	W. HAYWARD	
	H. J. SUCH	

E. J. S. COLGAN,
Secretary.

I have carefully examined the above statements with the Books of Account of Hall & Holtz, Limited, and, having compared them with the vouchers, I find them correct, and in accordance therewith.

GEO. D. SCOTT,
Auditor.

Amusements.

THE DAGMAR COMPANY AT THE LYCEUM.

The Prude's Progress, which Miss Vivianne Dagmar's Company, with the assistance of some local amateurs, introduced to Shanghai on Tuesday, although it has the recommendation of the authorship of Messrs. Jerome K. Jerome and Eden Phillpotts, is not a particularly successful piece of modern comedy. It has some clever lines, and epigrammatic sayings, such as when one character is asked "They are all friends," and he replies: "Some are—the rest are relations," but otherwise the human interest is little, and instead of being a prude, we should call the principal character a hypocrite. He is a Mr. Ben Dixon, a member of the London County Council, who, posing as a model of rectitude, is discovered to be a bigamist, and fraud generally. The piece was described and cast as under:—

THE PRUDE'S PROGRESS,

Comedy in Three Acts

By Jerome K. Jerome and Eden Phillpotts
For the First Time in Shanghai.

Jack Medbury (an Artist). Mr. Edwin Moore.
Ted Morris (a Medical Student)....., S. Harding.
Theodore Travers (a Journalist)....., Laurence Goodwin.

Adam Cherry (a Retired Actor)....., Walter Bond.
Mr. Ben Dixon, L.C.C., M.V.A....., L. Hanray.
Mrs. Wheedles (a Lodging-house Keeper)..... Mrs. Molecule.
Mrs. Ben Dixon..... Miss Freeman.
Nelly Morris (Ted's Sister)..... Dagmar.
Primrose Deane....., Dauvers.

Act. I.—Mrs. Wheedles' Lodging-house, Bloomsbury; Ted Morris' Room.

Act. II.—Drawing-room at Mr. Ben Dixon's Country House.

Act. III.—Adam Cherry's Room at Mrs. Wheedles'.

It is unnecessary to give any detailed narrative of the plot, and it will suffice to say that the chief responsibility of the acting rested upon Miss Freeman, who was distinctly successful as the lively Mrs. Ben No. 2; Mrs. Molecule, in whom the audience quickly recognised one of Shanghai's well-known amateurs, masquerading in feminine garb, and doing it, too, very cleverly; Mr. Hanray, as the "prude," a conscientious piece of work; and Miss Dagmar, who acted very pleasingly and sympathetically. The other characters

were creditably represented, although "Theodore Travers," journalist, is we should imagine, highly imaginative. Journalists or authors, or whatever he is, do not as a rule, in real life, at every odd moment flourish a note-book of aggressively liberal proportions, and jot down in public, commonplace thoughts suggested by the company present. After the piece, which was kindly received, Miss Dagmar gave her three very pretty serpentine dances, which were loudly applauded.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AT THE LYCEUM.

Never have we seen the Lyceum more crowded than it was on Saturday evening, and rarely have we been present at a performance that more thoroughly satisfied the audience.

"The Drama's laws the Drama's patrons give,
And they who live to please must please to live."

Mr. Wilson Barrett's religious melodrama has in its widely extended career pleased not only hundreds of thousands of regular playgoers, but also tens if not hundreds of thousands of those who who are not as a rule fond of the stage. *The Sign of the Cross* is by no means a great work, but it is one which eminently satisfies the laws of the Drama as laid down by Dr. Johnson, and it needs neither criticism nor description from us at this late hour. It is a stirring well-contrived melodrama, full of incident and interest, and with just enough love in it to keep it from ever becoming tedious. The dialogue is full of excerpts from the Bible, and it was noticeable that these quotations elicited the warmest applause from the gallery. Those who go to the Lyceum to see it, and no one should miss it, see a marvellously complete reproduction of Mr. Barrett's presentation of it, though with naturally a little less of the splendour of Imperial Rome. Mr. Dallas is an excellent Marcus Superbus; he has a fine manly presence and delivers his words like one accustomed to command. Mr. Musgrave is to be pitied that he has to take such a despicable rôle as that of Tigellinus, but no fault could be found with his rendering of it, and we may say the same of Mr. J. L. Hall as Licinius. Mr. Ferrell's study of Nero was admirable, and Mr. D. Munro delighted the audience with his most consistent representation of the drunken but good-hearted Glabrio. Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Senley were the most abject of spies and informers, and Mr. Empson was a sympathetic Vitruvius. The parts of the old Christians were adequately filled, and Miss F. Stanley presented with marked feeling and intelligence the difficult rôle of the boy Stephanus.

The acting of Miss Maud Jeffries was no small part of the success of Mr. Barrett's production of *The Sign of the Cross*, and she could hardly have been better replaced than by Miss Madge Grey, whose portrayal of the purity, sweetness, gentleness, grace, and devotion of the Virgin Martyr was deservedly rewarded by constant and enthusiastic applause. It was no wonder that she converted even a Marcus Superbus. Miss Barbara Fenn was an attractive representative of the wealthy patrician lady Berenice, and the other female parts were more than adequately filled. The dresses were good, the scenery effective; and the stage management deserved high commendation. It is no slight venture to bring to the Far East a company able to present satisfactorily a melodrama with so long a cast, and Messrs. Dallas and Musgrave must be heartily congratulated on the success they achieved so legitimately. *The Sign of the Cross* will be presented again to-night.

THE ORGAN RECITAL.

The Cathedral was crowded on Friday evening, and those who attended Mr. Crompton's Recital were thoroughly well rewarded. The three numbers for the organ were much more taking than those given at the previous recital, and instead of following each other immediately, vocal numbers divided them. The former of these was Allitsen's "Song of Thanksgiving," a splendid love song given with full effect by Mrs. Valentine, and the latter a setting originally composed for Miss Clara Butt by Liddle of Kibble's beautiful hymn "Adieu with me," which Mr. Wedemeyer delivered most conscientiously, and which was listened to with the deepest attention, though we have heard Mr. Wedemeyer in songs which suited his voice better. The final number was a repetition of Gounod's *Gallia* with soprano solo, in which Mrs. Lanphier excelled herself, chorus, orchestra, and organ, Mr. Crompton conducting, with Mr. G. F. Lanning at the organ. This was given still better, if possible, than on the previous occasion. The grand melodies filled the Cathedral, and the audience went away when it was finished enthusiastically delighted.

D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.

"Beware of imitations" is a caution very much out of place as far as M. d'Arc's all-but-living wooden figures are concerned; one might almost say the imitations were preferable, so beautifully did they perform. As for the audience that filled the well-arranged canvas theatre on Tuesday night, the wire-pullers above the stage had as complete a command over them as they had over their delightful dummies, and all we can say to those who through life have acted up to the above maxim is that they for once ease down. Of the ten parts in the first section of the programme we have, unfortunately, not space to give a detailed account, neither do we care to pick from the number, as all were equally good; yet we feel bound to draw attention to Mother Shipton's little family. A minute's interval and the Court Minstrels were in full swing. After the first few moments we had grown so accustomed to the little niggers that it became hard to believe they were aught but the genuine African product. The second section of the programme contained the well-known but ever-appreciable pantomime "Blue Beard," and it is doubtful whether the Drury Lane "B.B." ever had a more delighted audience. Following this came what in the programme was rightly called "A half-hour of side-splitting fun and frolic," which indeed it was to young and old alike. The final piece, "A Transformation Scene," we cannot commend, but perhaps this was expressly staged for the Chinese; to Western eyes it had a crude effect both as regards colouring and general detail.

D'Arc's MARIONETTES gave another of their wonderfully realistic performances on Wednesday evening to a fairly well filled house. The *fantoccini*, minstrels, and the last half hour of frolic are truly, for those who have never before witnessed them, astonishing and irresistibly comic. They should be seen by all.

Quite a number of foreign children as well as a goodly sprinkling of adults witnessed the afternoon performance of M. d'Arc's Marionettes at the Bijou Theatre on Saturday afternoon. At the close of the entertainment a handsome doll was drawn for, and the wee daughter of Mr. A. R. Leake was the happy winner of the coveted toy.

THE SHANGHAI ROWING CLUB.

A SCRATCH REGATTA.

Two most interesting races under the auspices of the Shanghai Rowing Club took place on Wednesday afternoon, the course being from Kinleeyuen to Garden Point on the ebb tide. The weather was brilliant and a number of enthusiastic spectators assembled on the foreshore and in the Gardens to witness the competition.

The first event was the "A" Co.'s Squad Race which started at 5.45, the crews finishing in the following order:—

1.—Squad 4.

Bow—N. B. Ramsay.
2—J. E. Denham.
3—G. E. Stewart.
Stroke—E. T. Byrne.
Cox.—J. Timm.

2.—Squad 1.

Bow—T. H. R. Shaw.
2—O. Thoresen.
3—H. Shadgett.
Stroke—D. McNeill.
Cox.—A. Jamieson.

3.—Squad 2.

Bow—J. D. Smedley.
2—R. W. Steiner.
3—A. E. Cooper.
Stroke—F. W. Rickard.
Cox.—O. V. Lanning.

4.—Squad 3.

Bow—E. Quelch.
2—V. Davis.
3—A. F. Algie.
Stroke—A. T. Rainsford.
Cox.—F. W. Reis.

This race was a most exciting one, the winners making the most of the tide and winning by only four feet. No. 3 was only some two lengths behind No. 4 following close. But for the erratic steering of No. 4's coxswain who made an inshore course they would have stood a good chance of a win. Time, 5 mins. 25½ secs.

The second race over the same course was for Junior Fours. Unfortunately this lost somewhat in interest through a mishap to the Captain's (J. C. Bois) boat, the bow oar carrying away his rowlock before the start and thus becoming *hors de combat*.

1.—Secretary's Boat.

Bow—O. Middleton.
2—E. Colgan.
3—R. Kupsch.
Stroke—P. L. Byrne.
Cox.—E. T. Byrne.

2.—Treasurer's Boat.

Bow—E. Allen.
2—W. Middleton.
3—H. R. Thomas.
Stroke—J. Stampf.
Cox.—A. E. Cooper.

The winners here had but a length to spare, and owing to Byrne boring Cooper to the bank the latter, had he straightened up his boat, might have won with a foul. Time, 5 mins. 40 secs.

"The Health and Vigour of an individual depend upon the quantity and quality of the blood. When the tissues have been at work, there are thrown into the blood waste products, and if these be not eliminated but (through any cause) detained in the blood they influence nutrition and function and finally produce organic disease."—*The Humanitarian*. In cases of Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, the effects of Clarke's Blood Mixture are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Clarke's Blood Mixture is sold everywhere, at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substituted
3 alt

SHANGHAI GOLF CLUB.

The third and last mixed foursomes was played off on 25th and 26th instant in perfect weather.

The Cup was won by Miss. Mann (for the second time) with the exceedingly low net score of 48 for the 9 holes, while the second prize, a gold Indian coin brooch, kindly presented by Mr. J. B. Walsh, was won by Mrs. Jackson with 50 net.

Players.	Strokes		
	Gross Score.	Allo-wed.	Net Score.
Miss Mann	50	2	48
Jas. Mann	55	5	50
Mrs. Jackson	51	0	51
Wade Gard'ner	56	4	52
M. Seitz	59	6	53
Jas. Ferrier	62	7	55
Mrs. Shorrock	63	8	55
B. A. Clarke	61	5	56
Mrs. Ayscough	65	6	59
J. R. Harding	66	7	59
Mrs. Bland	81	10	71
A. M. Reid			
Mrs. Wrightson			
W. C. Murray			
Mrs. J. C. Johnston			
J. C. Johnston			
Mrs. D. N. Mackenzie			
J. Turner			
Mrs. W. Gard'ner			
H. T. Butterworth			
Mrs. Probst			
R. B. Allen			

5 Scores not returned.

The Consolation Cup—the last Competition on the card resulted in a tie between J. Ramsay and J. C. Hanson at 90 net.

Players.	Strokes		
	Gross Score.	Allo-wed.	Net Score.
J. Ramsay	106	16	90
J. C. Hanson	106	16	90
G. C. Dew	109	8	92
C. Biron	102	10	92
E. O. Arbuthnot	98	5	93
C. B. Rea	113	14	99
J. Hardie	108	8	100
E. Algar	120	20	100
B. T. Stark	110	10	100
W. Gresson	111	8	103
D. Campbell	128	24	104
J. Mann	128	22	106

20 Scores not returned.

It has been decided, however, to close the season with an Extra in the form of a Bogey Competition on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday next.

S. M. P.

MONTHLY CUP AND CLUB COMPETITIONS.

The above competitions were shot for on Friday at 200 and 500 yards in weather that was all that could be desired from a marksman's point of view, and, in consequence, good scoring was in evidence. The Cup was won by Inspector Collins for the second time in succession (it thus becomes his own property), with a splendid score of 66 points out of a possible 70.

There were 23 competitors.

The following are scores over 40:—

Names.	200 yds.	500 yds.	Tl.
Insp. Collins	34	32	66
Sergt. Lynch	31	33	64
Insp. Bourke	32	32	64
" Wilson	30	31	61
Sergt. Spottiswoode	27	28	55
" Dahl	29	24	53
" Marshall	30	23	53
" Robinson	29	23	52
" Smith	30	22	52
" Oliver	27	24	51
P.C. Reilly	27	22	49
Sergt. M. C. Dowall	26	19	45
P.C. Thornton	28	15	43
" Lynch	28	15	43
Sergt. Helyer	20	21	41

Deducting handicaps, the following are the Prize winners in the Club Competition:—

Inspector Collins	1
" Bourke	2
Sergeant Spottiswoode	3
Inspector Wilson	4
Sergeant Oliver	5

Correspondence.

"IN THE TAOTAI'S COURT BEFORE HIS HONOUR TSAI, TAOTAI, AND W. V. DRUMMOND, ESQ."

IN *re* C. BOCK *v.* TEH SIU-TZE.

To the Editor of the
NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—In the *North-China Daily News* of the 21st of April, 1899, there appears what purports to be a judgment in the case of Carl Bock against Teh Siu-tze. It is also published that this judgment was rendered "In the Taotai's Court," and "Before His Honour, Tsai, Taotai, and W. V. Drummond, Esq."

If it was not for the fact that there was a case of the above name pending in the Taotai's Court, no notice would be taken of the so-called "judgment" published as indicated, and "officially handed to Mr. C. W. Hay as representing the defendant."

There is another reason for noticing this bastard offspring of an alleged "Taotai's Court," and it is not only due to the Chinese Government but also to foreign interests in China that the reason should be stated. The principle involved is far more important than the interests of the parties litigant, for if China could afford to approve of one of her officers organising a Court in violation of a treaty it is certain that foreign nations will not allow the inter-ests of their nationals in China to be affected by the action of such an illegally organised Court.

A treaty between Great Britain and China, known as the Chefoo Convention, provides that in judicial proceedings of a mixed nature the guiding principle shall be that the case is tried by the officer of the defendant's nationality and the law administered will be the law of the nationality of the officer trying the case, the officer of the plaintiff's nationality attending to watch the proceedings in the interest of justice.

It was under the above provision of the Chefoo Convention that Carl Bock, a subject of Norway, addressed a communication to Tsai Taotai, informing the Taotai that he (Bock) was interested in the settlement of certain notes against Teh Siu-tze, which he held, and requested the Taotai to have the notes paid.

Payment not being made, proceedings were commenced before the Taotai by Bock against Teh Siu-tze and a date was fixed for the trial of the case. The defendant, being a subject of China, the proceedings were, in consequence, begun before the Taotai, and the Consul-General of Sweden and Norway attended as the representative of his national, the plaintiff.

The Court being thus organised in accordance with the treaty, the Taotai said to the Consul-General that W. V. Drummond, Esq., was his legal adviser and he desired him to be present at the trial of the case. Courteously deferring to the wish of the Taotai the Consul-General assented, and when the Court opened for trial Mr. Drummond was provided with a seat on the bench, sitting to the left of the Taotai—the Consul-General on the right.

It could not be and was not supposed by the Consul-General that the Taotai intended that Mr. Drummond should direct the proceedings of the Court or in any

way appear in the proceedings, though, as the trial was to be according to Chinese law, the request for Mr. Drummond's presence did not escape appearing as suggestive, but there was no wish to even seem as contravening the desire of the Taotai, believing, as the Consul-General did, that both the Taotai and his legal adviser would respect the proprieties of the Court and be appreciative of its courtesies.

But the preliminary stages of the trial had not been passed before Mr. Drummond undertook to direct the proceedings as to the pleadings and the introduction of the evidence, and in the report of the case, in the Shanghai newspapers, he appears as the Head Man of the Village.

He was notified at the time by the writer that he could not be allowed to usurp the functions of the Court, and at the second sitting of the Court the Consul-General filed a protest to the abuse of a courtesy he had extended to the Taotai, and refused to sit any longer in a Court constituted in violation of a treaty; and in defiance of a treaty and foreign rights, the so-called judgment is now published as if "His Honour Tsai, Taotai, and W. V. Drummond, Esq.," constituted the Taotai's Court.

The Consul-General left the bench, believing that the Court was illegally constituted, and referred the question to his colleagues composing the Consular Body at Shanghai.

A meeting of the Consular Body was called, and it was unanimously decided that the Taotai acted in violation of the treaty, to which the Court owed its origin, in giving Mr. Drummond a seat on the bench and associating him with the proceedings, and that the Consul-General of Sweden and Norway was within his rights in refusing to recognise a Court so constituted, and in leaving it. This decision of the Consular Body was officially made known to the Taotai and to the Foreign Diplomatic Body at Peking.

When the Consul-General left the Court I suggested to the Taotai that the case be continued, until the question raised could be properly referred and decided, but he quoted the action of a Taotai at Chinkiang where a British Consul left the Court and the Taotai proceeded to try the case and give judgment, and it so happened that Mr. Drummond was conspicuous in the Chinkiang incident, but had not then been promoted to the bench. The action quoted as a precedent is in no sense a precedent, for there the objection did not go to the constitution of the Court but to some questions arising during the trial, and, while wholly dissimilar in every sense, it shows how neglect to have a wrong action righted will be quoted in defence of a greater wrong.

The Treaty provides how and by whom a case shall be tried, and it is to the safety of foreign interests in China that Judicial Tribunals, especially provided for by the Treaty, shall be preserved in all their integrity, and attempts to invade foreign rights, under whatever pretence or in whatever tribunal, should be met and crushed at the threshold.

If a Taotai, when foreign interest is before him, can summon to the bench any one he may hire to advise him, however equivoque the hired adviser may be, there is no argument needed to impress the danger of the precedent and how useless and powerless Treaty Rights will soon be. The interests of Mr. Bock and the Chinese defendant are insignificant in comparison with the inviolate maintenance of Treaty Rights.

In view of the above facts, the Consul-General not only refused to acknowledge the legality of the Court, but declined to receive the "judgment" when sent to him by the Taotai, and returned it. The "judgment" was rendered some time before the Taotai was retired by his

Government, and it is to be regretted that any foreigner should have published such a paper, under his sanction, but it is hoped not with a feeling of indifference to a unanimous decision of the Consular Body in a matter involving an important principle which all foreigners are alike interested in maintaining.

In justice to Mr. Bock I should repel the unworthy and unfair insinuations against him in this "judgment" by the illegal and unrecognised Court of "Tsai Taotai and W. V. Drummond, Esq."

If the "Taotai and Associate Drummond" had proceeded to render "judgment" upon what they understood were the facts and the law, the judgment, so rendered, would have passed unnoticed either by me or the Court that will review and reverse the illegal proceedings, but, not satisfied with that course, they needlessly assail Mr. Bock, when knowing that his side of the case has not been presented and his attorney has had no opportunity of showing, as he is prepared to do, that Mr. Bock has papers to prove that his connection with the notes has been correct and legal.

During the first day of the trial every paper offered by me in behalf of Mr. Bock was summarily held to be inadmissible, while on the second day, when the Consul-General and myself were absent, evidence of a similar character and degree to that offered by me was readily admitted. The case was tried upon an *ex parte* statement and the "judgment" is based upon such statement, but is not even supported by it, and is wholly irresponsible and, as an example, the Taotai says the notes are ten years old, but who ever heard that time was the essence of a contract or anything else in China? Lawyer Ellis, who appeared for the defence, indulged in harsh and unprofessional criticism of the Consul-General for leaving the Court, and could not, he said, appreciate the propriety or the reason I gave for leaving. The reason why the Consul-General left has been stated and has received the unanimous approval of his colleagues, and I have no knowledge that Mr. Ellis was ever accused of a proper appreciation of propriety; he has shown no conception of the merits of the case whatever and his critical reference to the Consul-General, while absent, violated all professional dignity.

I left the Court because it would have been manifestly discourteous to the Consul-General had I remained and conducted the case of one of his nationals in a court in which he refused to sit, because illegally constituted.

When the case is reheard I shall be prepared to prove that Mr. Bock's connection with it has been strictly legal and that the attempt to create a public sentiment against him has no foundation in justice. But those whose opinions are to be valued do not reach conclusions upon mere *ex parte* statements; they wait and hear both sides. That is all Mr. Bock asks.

I am, etc.,

T. R. JERNIGAN,
Attorney for Carl Bock.

24th April.

NEVER DESPAIR of being able to overcome the troubles of this world, for they will disappear like dew before the sun if we only look them squarely in the face. If you are afflicted with any bodily disease, give Holloway's Pills and Ointment a trial; they will afford speedy relief, and in time effect a cure. They are the best known remedies for all complaints. During the summer months many people are afflicted with bowel and liver disorders, diarrhoea, dysentery, colic, low fevers, etc. These remedies are unequalled in such cases, and should therefore be the *Vade Mecum* of all who value sound health. They may be procured from all chemists and medicine vendors.

160c-99 234

17th Oct., 1898.

STEAMER RATES TO KULING.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—In reference to my former letter on this subject, Messrs Butterfield & Swire wrote me calling attention to the fact that they had addressed to me a reply to my communication of the 24th of December. This letter never reached me and a copy has now been supplied. The reply informs me that this firm also refuses to grant the request for special rates.

Last December I addressed all the Companies, but have, so far, received no reply from the China Merchants', McBain, or Hung On Companies.

It is a pity the Companies cannot see their way clear to grant a concession to the travelling public during the Kuling season. Another year may bring better results.

I am, etc.,

EDWARD S. LITTLE,

Chairman, Kuling Municipal Council.

28th April.

Poetry.

EPITAPH ON A LATE STROKE

He died because he wondered how
God made so bad an oar as Bow;
Also because he said of Two
"The biggest ass I ever knew."
It is on record that he swore
Quite volubly at Three and Four.
Yet had he been polite to Five
I think he would be still alive,
In spite of some peculiar tricks
Of style, that often bothered Six;
But that which sent him straight to heaven
Was being always late on Seven.

N.

Miscellaneous.

"ASSECURATUS NON QUÆRIT LUCRUM, SED AGIT NE IN DAMNO SIT."

(CONTRIBUTED.)

Friday morning in the Mixed Court, the tailor Moh Kwei-too, who was convicted last Wednesday of putting fire to his shop with intent to defraud the Insurance Companies, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour. We trust that this may prove a forcible object lesson to those Chinese who have not yet grasped the significance of the maxim with which we head this article.

The Settlement has, for the last twelve months, been the scene of a number of outbreaks of fire out of all proportion to either the size of Shanghai or the number of the population. The police have made attempts on several occasions to secure a conviction of arson. But either from lack of evidence or, we are compelled to acknowledge, the indifference with which their evidence has been handled, hitherto have failed to fully substantiate their case and secure a punishment that should act as a deterrent to this epidemic.

It is therefore with peculiar satisfaction that we learn the success that has attended their last arrest. The prisoner attempted to shift his responsibility by stating that the outbreak originated in adjacent premises, and spread to his shop, but the witnesses for the prosecution, and for the defence when pressed, gave the lie to his assertion. A strong chain of circumstantial evidence hemmed him in, and

resulted in a verdict, the justice of which we think cannot be doubted.

It is not easy to create in the minds of people much interest in the occurrence of fires, so long as they themselves are not actual sufferers, but it is difficult to over-estimate the danger that may involve any one of us, from the successful attempts of persons to wilfully destroy their property. Fortunately, but seldom have these outbreaks in Shanghai been attended by the loss of human life, but that can only be regarded as a happy coincidence, and with the flimsy nature of the construction of which the greater portion of the Settlement consists, the risk to valuable property becomes immense.

The Tao-tai recently issued a proclamation prohibiting amongst Chinese the effecting of fire insurance. It was an amusing declaration, and one that might have been expected to emanate from the source from which it came. Doubtless, if carried out in strict accordance with it would letter, [the bring about the desired result, but the Tao-tai has forgotten or, never learnt, that the way to destroy an evil is to strike at its root. The root of the crime is in the mind of the man who contemplates committing it, and who ultimately does commit it, and the efforts of the law should be directed to punishing the offender who abuses a trade necessary to all safe commerce, and beneficial to the community at large, and not to making the majority who enjoy a security, without which business would be seriously handicapped, sufferers for the one who turns that security into an adventurous and criminal speculation.

If it was a principle that a good thing in the hands of an evil person was *ipso facto* sufficient reason for destroying it, we should be left without most of the conveniences that are the outcome of our advanced and improved civilisation. The knife with which the skillful surgeon severs the diseased limb and saves the life of his patient may, in the hands of a lunatic, be used to commit an act of suicide. We should hardly argue therefrom that the manufacture of steel was a pernicious trade. To use a somewhat closer analogy we have heard of men;—yes, and men in high position, being so entranced as to the possible prize awaiting them as to break the laws of their country, say a law against the exportation of rice, in those countries where the exportation is prohibited, so as to secure an illicit profit from its sale. Should we therefore argue that the cultivation of paddy was pernicious? No, rather that the morality of the man who exported it was unsound, and that he should be punished as the magistrate has punished Moh Kwei-too; and we trust that there will be, in spite of the light sentence, no cause for him to convict a prisoner of a similar crime for a long period.

£5 000 BONDS would not be thought too large an amount to pay for the blessing of health by many wretched sufferers who by day and night are tortured with the racking pains peculiar to gout and rheumatism. Relief, however, can be procured at a much less cost by the aid of Holloway's Pills and Ointment. The former are of so purifying a nature, that a few doses taken in time are an effectual preventive against an attack of either. The Ointment should be thoroughly rubbed into the parts affected at least twice a day after they have been sufficiently fomented with warm water, which opens the pores and facilitates the introduction of the Ointment to the glands.

16cc-99 234

17th Oct., 1898.

THE NEW BRIDGE.

The new bridge opposite the bend of Chapoo Road across the Soochow Creek is practically completed and will be opened to traffic directly the approach roads are made up. The bridge is built of hardwood, with wrought iron railings, is 273 feet in length between the abutments and 40 feet in width, the main piles being 55 feet in length. For the convenience of the vehicular traffic the gradient of the bridge itself, in contradistinction to the other bridges across the creek, has been kept as gentle as possible. The metalled approaches on the Hongkew side are only temporary and they will be considerably improved in the near future. It is expected that this bridge will relieve the Garden Bridge of a great deal of heavy traffic. The work has been carried out by Lee Dah-ah, under the superintendence of the Municipal Engineer's Department, at a cost of Tls. 22,000.

THE SHANGHAI FIRE DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL SHIELD COMPETITION.

The competition for the above shield took place on the Race course on Saturday afternoon at 3.30. The firemen with their engines, trucks, reels, etc., assembled on the French bund at 2.30, and at 3 o'clock proceeded at a trot to the scene of trial where a great number of spectators awaited their arrival. The order of succession having been settled by lot, the French team "Le Torrent" were the first to set things going, followed by the Mih-ho-loongs, Hongkew, Deluge, and Victorias. The first event consisted of attaching a double gooseneck to a hydrant and coupling given lengths of hose to each gooseneck, time to be recorded on the first appearance of the second jet of water from the nozzles; in the next move two lengths of hose had to be taken from their truck and attached to the Loongfei gate end; following this they had to replace the middle section by another length of hose; the final act was to roll up in the usual manner. Time was taken from when the foreman said the word "Go."

	Le Torrent.	Mih-ho-loong.	Hongkew.	Deluge.	Victorias.
1st event...	32	31	31½	33½	36
2nd do. ...	26	33	30	24½	26½
3rd do. ...	23½	26	26½	25½	48½
4th do. ...	78	90	73½	87½	100
	159½	180	162	170½	211½
Penalties...	22½	14	25½	13½	—
Total	182	194	187½	184	211½

* This team was not penalised by the judges as they were so far behind.

Upon the Hongkew team finishing their work they were loudly applauded for the celerity of their action. At the close of the contest Mr. Louis Moore addressing the firemen said it was with extreme regret that he had to inform them that there was no representative of any of the Insurance Companies present to present the Shield to the winners. It might have been an oversight of his and he might be to blame for not taking the trouble to go around to the Insurance Offices to ask a representative to present the Shield. Mr. Ballard had formerly made the presentation and he thought it strange no one else had thought it necessary to be present. Mr. Moore then requested the foreman of the Hongkew Company to hand over the Shield to the French Company "Le Torrent" after which he (Mr.

Moore) said it now became his duty to award the Shield and remarked that he was sure all the firemen could not have been more conscientious than the foreman of each Company of the representative departments; they were just fair and true men, that when they gave their decision it may be taken for granted that the French Company did win it properly. Mr. Berthet foreman of the "Torrent" Company having replied, three cheers and a tiger were given for the winners and returned by the victors for the Hongkew Company.

THE POLICE INSPECTION.

The Annual Inspection of the Municipal Police took place at 2.30 on Saturday afternoon in the British Consulate Grounds. Of a total force of 714 men, 387 were on parade and were as follows: Capt. P. B. Pattisson, Capt.-Superintendent; Capt. D. Mackenzie, Deputy-Superintendent; Chief Inspector G. Howard; Inspectors Matheson, Burke, Ramsay, Wilson, Reed, and Collins, 18 Foreign Sergeants, 16 Foreign Constables, 3 Sikh Sergeants, 66 Sikh Constables, 12 Native Sergeants, 263 Native Constables, and Sergeant Spottiswoode with 8 mounted Sikhs. On the arrival of Mr. J. S. Fearon, Chairman of the Council, Capt. Pattisson escorted him and Mr. E. A. Hewett, Chairman of the Watch Committee, through the ranks. After a careful inspection the Chairman in addressing the Force said:

Capt. Pattisson, officers, and men of the Shanghai Police Force, I am glad to say that, after having inspected you, I am pleased with your smart appearance on parade. I am glad to learn from the Capt.-Superintendent that you are doing your duty to his satisfaction. We know that many of the duties you have to perform require on your part a good deal of patience and tact, and the Council feels sure that you will continue to cultivate these qualities, even under, what may sometimes appear, difficult circumstances. The Council have recognised the fact that in many ways the cost of living has increased in Shanghai and have in consequence increased your pay 10 per cent in addition to the 15 per cent increase granted last year. The Council trusts that every man in the force will do all that lies in his power to do credit to the body to which he belongs and to protect the interests and welfare of the public.

Capt. Pattisson in reply said: Mr. Fearon, I beg to thank you for your kind expressions of approval of the appearance and the state of the Force, and, speaking on behalf of the officers, the men, and myself, we trust we shall always merit the approval of your Council and the public in the future. With reference to the death of Constable Ellefsen, on behalf of the Force, I wish to state that we feel very deeply your great kindness and consideration in ordering me to erect a memorial to his memory; for in him we feel we have lost a comrade on duty as much as though he had died on the battle-field.

The Force was then dismissed and the various sections, under command of their respective Inspectors headed by Sergeant Spottiswoode with his mounted Sikhs, marched out of the grounds. The men looked extremely well, and great credit is due both them and their officers. With the exception of the Chinese they all showed a smart and military appearance, and the Model Settlement may well be proud of its Constabulary. With the natives a shambling gait and irregular step were very noticeable, for which they cannot be blamed. With their native boots proper marching is out of the question, and, as we learn that with an annual extra expenditure of a few cents per head the men can be equipped with leathern shoes, we would not be surprised if, under the

advice of the Capt-Superintendent the Council did shortly make this most important and essential improvement.

NORTH KIANGSU FAMINE RELIEF.

The following additional sums for the Rev. B. C. Patterson have been received from Soochow:—

Anonymous.....	\$20.00
Mr. F. J. Mayers.....	10.00
Mr. O. F. Schepens.....	2.00
Messrs. Li Yuen & Co.	1.00
Mr. Yao Pah-fu (additional) ..	1.00
Dr. Francis L. Cattell.....	2.00
Fan Tsai-hsien.....	2.00
Mr. Yuan Foh-ting.....	2.00
Mr. Tsai Foh-pao.....	4.00
Mr. Wong, Superintendent of Police	4.00
H.E. Tsien Taotai.....	4.00
Dr. Teao Tze-an.....	2.00
The Yin Brothers.....	15.00
Mr. Tsoh Sau-dong.....	1.00
Mr. Hyü.....	10.00
Mr. Yang.....	1.00
A Friend (Anglo-Chinese College) ...	3.00
Mr. Yoh Z-zien " ".....	1.00
Mr. H. Allen " ".....	1.00
Mr. R. L. Henderson " ".....	1.00
A Friend " ".....	1.00
Mr. Sheng Dong-e " ".....	2.00
Mr. Tao Kyiu-sen " ".....	1.00
	\$91.00

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

One of the Grenvilles. By Sidney Royce Lysaght. In paper, 8vo., 490 pp. Macmillan's Colonial Library. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 1899. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

The Treasury Officer's Wooing. By Cecil Lewis. In paper, 8vo., 508 pp. Macmillan's Colonial Library. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 1899. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

Swallow, a Tale of the Great Trek. By H. Rider Haggard. In paper, 8vo. 348 pp., with illustrations. Longman's Colonial Library. London and Bombay: Longmans, Green & Co. 1899. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

TRAINING NOTES

BY
"DAYBREAK."

The attendances at the Grand Stand on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings were certainly the largest during this training season, if not of many others. A very gem of a morning on both days was the verdict. While most of the sterner sex occupied the rails, the Grand Stand was largely patronised by the ladies.

On Tuesday, the best time was accomplished by *Elk*, with a Boy up, who did 1 mile in 2.11. *Queenslander*, Percy up, did 1½ mile in 2.51, last quarter 31secs. It is a treat to see this pony race down the straight. *Standard Rose*, Mr. Jeromi, went 1 mile in 2.13½, last quarter 31secs., finishing with the greatest ease. *Moose*, Mortin up, went 1 mile in 2.12, last quarter 33secs. He still remains in the foremost rank. *Yellow Dwarf*, Cousin Willie, went ¾ mile in 1.36½, a very good gallop. *Otani*, Mr. Crawford, did 1 mile in 2.12½, last quarter 32½secs., all out. I am not quite so sure of him as I was, but anyhow he can make hacks of his competitors in the Sub. races. *Briefless*, Mr. Ellis, went ¾ mile in 1.36½, finishing very strong. He has been a disappointing pony so far, but I shall have my five Mexicans ready to put on him when the time comes. *Merrylegs*, Owner,

went 1 mile in 2.13½; not quite up to what we have been led to expect. *Hope*, Percy up, did the same distance in 2.15½. *Corbie*, Cousin Willie, the same journey in 2.14. *Thorn Ross*, Mr. Jeromi, took 2.15 also for one mile; the two latter it struck me were inclined to show the white feather at the finish. *Dimna Forget* did for ¾ of a mile, with Cousin Willie, 1.39, shoes on. We must not forget him entirely when the Sub. races are run. *Scotsman*, Mr. F. Dallas, went the mile in 33, 1.5½, 1.38½, 2.11, a common canter, and amongst the old stagers he can show a clean pair of heels to all of them—Let 'em all come. *Yangtze*, Mr. Cox, Shannon, Boy, went the same distance in the same time; the grey ridden out. *Yangtze Valley* went, with Mr. Cumming in the saddle, a mile in 2.16½, last quarter 31; he seems to be coming round again. *Chicago*, Mr. C.R.B. up, went 1½ mile in 2.55½, and from his appearance has too much daylight under him to carry his weight for inches. *Ariel*, same jockey up, took 2.13½ for one mile, and seems to be training on. *Rio Grande*, after getting rid of his jockey in the paddock, did 2.12½ for the mile, last quarter 32. I have already said that he will be very dangerous up to a mile. He will also be dangerous, in another sense, to his jockey and anyone else that is near him on race day. *Mystic*, Chuck up, went 1 mile in 2.16½, last quarter 31½, finishing very strong. The dew yesterday morning on the grass course made it somewhat slow for the early gallops, but the sun quickly put matters right, and the going was decidedly fast. Mr. Ring's ponies are claiming chief attention, and he certainly holds a very strong hand. *Desperation*, Owner up, did 1½ mile in 2.51½, last quarter 34, not a bad performance. *Matchbox*, Mr. Cumming up, went 1½ mile in 3.28, last quarter 31½, going great guns. *Interrogation*, Mr. Crawford, did ¾ of a mile in 32, 1.3½, 1.36½, shoes on. *Dot*, same jock up, did a like distance in 1.37½, last qtr. 33. This is certainly not of the "triple crown" order. *Snuff-box*, Mr. Ring, up, could also not do better than 1.37½ for his ¾ of a mile. *Nugget* was also sent along for ¾ of a mile with a postage stamp up, time 1.41; puttee soup. *Downcast*, Cousin Willie, had the legs of *The Broker* for 1½ mile in 2.52½. The roan kept a few seconds up his sleeve. *The Drummer*, Mr. Cumming, went 1½ mile in 3.27, last quarter 35, all out. *Lancer*, Percy, did his ¾ of a mile in 1.37½; rather a good performance for a Subscription. *Blitz*, boy, went 1 mile in 2.13½, and he appears to be training on. *Callisto*, Mr. Ring, *Proteus*, boy, went 1 mile in 2.11, last quarter 32; the chestnut finishing a bit in hand. *Mountain Dew*, the Baron up, went the Jockey Cup distance, but the performance was of the "up like a rocket and down like the stick" order; time 2.55. *Hands Off*, Chuck up, went a mile in 2.19; a steady canter. A little bird has whispered to me about a very fast 1½ mile being done by this pony last Monday. I have been unable to get the absolutely correct time, as far as I know, but I believe it was in the region of 2.46. *Impact*, Mr. Möller, created quite a sensation by doing the Derby distance in 35, 1.10½, 1.44, 2.17, 2.48½, 3.21, shoes on,—the gallop of the morning, and a first-class performance. One has to consider that the last mile took 2.10½, half a second faster than that of *Callisto* reported above. *Altair*, Owner, *Perseus*, Boy, went 1 mile in 2.12, the latter beaten half-a-length. *Argyll*, Mr. F. Dallas, *Rory*, Owner, went 1½ mile in 3.31, last quarter 31½, the fourteen-hander getting home by a length.

The final gallops for many of the competitors that will face the Starter tomorrow and Wednesday and Thursday next, took place on the Grass Course yesterday morning, and some of the decidedly fast times done put a somewhat different com-

plexion on events. All things considered the morning was not so genial as on the previous day, it was colder and not so conducive to fast times. The last half-mile, however, could not have been much more favourable as the wind was a good deal in the ponies' favour.

Interrogation, shoes off, Mr. Crawford, *Dot*, shoes on, Boy, did their 1½ mile in 2.49½, the last mile 2.10½; not a bad performance. *Standard Rose*, shoes on, Mr. Jeromi, went 1 mile in 2.14; he is one of the favourites for the Griffins but his followers I should imagine were rather disappointed at this gallop. *Hope*, Mr. Percy up, did his ¾ of a mile in 1.32, a tiptop performance, such time as this makes the "dead certs" we have heard so much about look doubtful. *Scotsman* did for 1½ mile with Mr. F. Dallas in the saddle, 2.49½, going alone and as he liked. *Emerald*, owner up, did a mile, shoes on, in 2.12½, last ¾ 1.36½, a gallop not by any means to be despised.

Marton, shoes off, the Baron up, did 1.35½ for ¾ of a mile, last quarter 32½. *Bugler*, shoes off, Mr. F. Dallas up, took 2.15 for a mile; he does not seem to improve. *Rose de France*, shoes on, Mr. Jeromi up, did 2.11½ for a like distance, last ¾ mile 1.3, he did not finish as if he is in love with the game. *Sinbad* (shoes on), Chuck up, did his 1½ mile in 3.26½, last quarter 32½. *Tannhauser* (shoes on), A. W. B. up, went his mile in 2.14½, last quarter 30½, a useful gallop. *Yangtze Valley* (shoes off), Mr. F. Dallas up, did the same distance in 2.10½, last ¾ 1.33½, last quarter 29½ seconds, finishing hard held, another tiptop gallop. *Pink 'Un* did a good half mile in 28½, 59½.

Then we come to the gallop of the morning *Loyalty*, who with shoes on, Chuck up, did his mile in 33½, 1.6½, 1.37½, 2.9½; he was brought home the last three furlongs by a stable companion. He finished "all out" but shoes off will make a big difference. *Charges* showed signs of improving; his mile and a quarter took 2.47½, last quarter 32½.

A number of subscription griffins were sent along but the times taken were so bad that they are not worthy of mention.

The shifty *Shannon*, Mr. Cox up, did his mile in 2.14, last ¾, 1.35½, last ½ mile 1.2. On his day if so inclined he can make the best ponies on the course gallop, but unfortunately he does not always select race days for his best performances. *Moose*, Mortin up, did a mile in 2.12, last quarter 31½. His previous performances pointed to better time than this. *Sandstorm* (shoes on), Mr. A. W. Burkhill up, did his mile in 2.8½, last quarter 31, and of the old ponies he stands in the foremost position. *Laos*, Mr. Cox, did a very speedy half mile 28½, 58, so the Hart Leacy should be a gift for him.

Mystic (shoes off), with Chuck up, did 1.34½ for ¾ of a mile, last quarter 29½, another good performance.

Mr. Hopeful sent *St. Lawrence*, Mr. Cox, *Tiber*, boy, for ¾ of a mile, the time being 1.33 last quarter 32. *St. Lawrence* is another rogue.

Rio Grande going alone, Mortin up, did a mile in 2.8½, last quarter 29½, finishing very gamely, if he will do his best in company on race day he will catch the judge's eye. Animals of this description, when they are good they are very very good, but when they are bad they are horrid.

As I close these notes rain has commenced to fall in what may unfortunately be termed a business-like manner, and should it continue, more instances will probably be forthcoming as to the "great uncertainties of the Turf."

THE KOWLOON DISTURBANCE.

Although on the British side there were no casualties from the armed demonstration which certain bodies of Chinese offered against the hoisting of the British flag in the Kowloon extension, and the loss on the rebels' side as the result of the return fire—artillery and rifle—is vaguely described as "very heavy" without any statistics, the incident evidently caused considerable excitement in Hongkong, and but for the energy of the military and civil authorities might have had more serious results. The trouble became critical on Saturday, the 15th of April, when Captain Superintendent May, and 18 men, of whom only two were Europeans, the others being Indians, reached Taipohu, where the British flag was to be hoisted and were making their way to the site of the destroyed masts. According to the *Hongkong Daily Press*, at about two o'clock in the afternoon they noticed about a thousand men coming from over the hills, yelling and shouting and waving banners, and subsequently opening fire on the police. For two hours the police held their ground alone, fortunately escaping unhurt, though their position could hardly have been more exposed than it was. They only fired when the enemy got too presumptuous and appeared like rushing them. About four o'clock Captain Berger and a hundred men of the Hongkong Regiment were seen on the crest of a hill, and observing the uncomfortable position of the police came to their assistance with a run. During the next two hours several volleys were fired, and though they had the effect of making the rebels keep a respectful distance they still hovered about the adjoining heights and every now and then fired their guns, of which they had several. At six o'clock Captain Long arrived in the *Fame* and assumed command. Seeing that there was no other way of dislodging the enemy it was decided to shell his position. The *Fame* accordingly opened and threw several shells into the village of Taipohu and towards the enemy, several of whom were killed. Then Captain Long gave the order to charge and the men went forward with a rush. On seeing them coming the enemy at once made themselves scarce, and when our men got up to where they had been they were far away. The enemy were found to have made a complete series of trenches on a position which overlooked the site of the flagstaff. On Saturday evening some 500 men of the Hongkong Regiment went over to the assistance of their comrades, but they found all quiet, and there was no stirring on the part of the enemy the whole of Sunday.

On His Excellency the Governor hearing of the disturbance he at once resolved that the flag should be hoisted forthwith instead of waiting until Monday. Accordingly H.E. Major-General Gascoigne and the Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart and Commodore Powell left in H.M.S. *Brisk*. They reached Taipohu about two o'clock on Sunday. The Major-General sent word that he wanted the Hongkong Regiment to parade as quickly as possible and to form three sides of a square on what is now known as Flagstaff Hill—that is, the hill on which the police quarters had been erected and on which preparations for the hoisting of the flag had been made. The flagstaff had been erected in the early morning. On the Major-General, the Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, and Commodore Powell reaching the top of Flagstaff Hill they found the Hongkong Regiment forming three sides of a square, with their guns in the centre. As the Major-General arrived the troops presented arms, and he ordered them to shoulder. Then Mr. Lockhart, who wore his full official uniform, hoisted the flag; the troops presented arms; and the guns fired a salute, the *Fame* and the *Brisk* doing the same. After this Mr.

Lockhart read the convention and Her Majesty's Order in Council, this terminating proceedings.

On Sunday morning, the 16th a deputation from the Extension waited upon His Excellency at Government House and on behalf of themselves and others of Her Majesty's new subjects handed to him a blackwood box, with a Chinese inscription on the lid, the interpretation being, *The country's tranquillity and the people's happiness*. The box contained a couple of silk British flags, one being intended for use at the ceremony, after which it was to become the property of His Excellency, and the other to be forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen.

The deputation expressed their deep regret at the disturbances which had taken place in the new territory, and said that they were all due to the Triad Societies, the members of which had been terrorising the villages for months past, and compelling them to disburse large sums of money.

A second flag-hoisting ceremony took place on Monday, the 17th, quite as unexpectedly as the former. This time the site was opposite the Custom House outside Kowloon city, Lady Blake, the wife of the Governor, performing the ceremony. The spot where the ceremony was performed is a small open space in front of the Foreign Customs Station, only a few yards from the beach. In the background is the Customs building, facing the sea, and on the right, or south side of the "square" is the granite wall of a very dilapidated old fort, which is protected by an equally useless lot of cannon. On the north side are several of the gambling houses for which the city is notorious. The flagstaff stands in the angle formed by the Custom House and the wall of the fort; and the yellow flag of China could be seen floating in the breeze for the last time on that spot.

A guard of honour, consisting of about a hundred men of the Hongkong Regiment, was on the jetty at three o'clock awaiting the arrival of H.E. the Governor and party; and at 3.15 a detachment of a dozen Indian Police arrived and took up a position in the square. The Chinese flag was then hauled down, and shortly afterwards the Governor's launch *Victoria* arrived at the jetty with His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G., Lady Blake, Miss Blake, and others. The party, preceded by the guard of honour, walked up to the square and took up a position round the flagstaff, the soldiers falling in line, two deep, in front of the wall of the old fort.

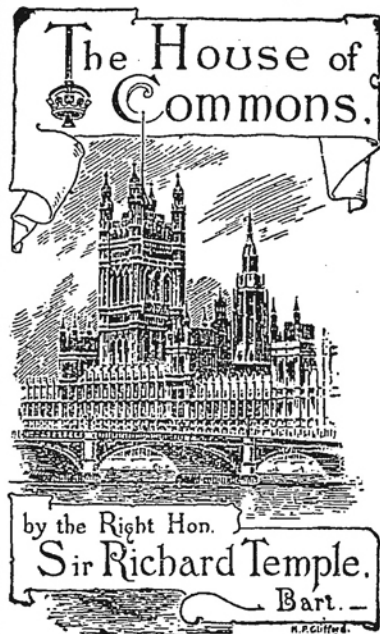
After His Excellency had exchanged a few words of greeting with the elders who were present, the Union Jack, tightly tied up in a small roll, was hoisted, and at 3.35 exactly Lady Blake pulled the cord, the flag unfurled, the party raised their hats, and the Sikhs presented arms. The Governor's interpreter then read an address to the people, explaining that the territory was now British and the people British subjects, dwelling on the benignant character of British rule, and wishing the people prosperity and happiness.

Printed copies of this address were then distributed amongst the crowd, who eagerly seized them and waved them in the air.

A wild rush was then made on the small party at the flagstaff, but with no evil intent, as it was caused by Lady Blake distributing a quantity of silver coin among the children who had gathered round. A furious but good-natured scramble at once occurred, and Her Ladyship and the others went inside the fort and finished the distribution there. The women, babies, and children were all the recipients of a few silver coins, and a great many happy and smiling faces were to be seen as one result of the British occupation. One little lad was seen with two ten-cent pieces carefully wrapped up in a copy of the address—a very appropriate combination.

By Tuesday all was reported quiet. The disorderly spirits had evidently got tired of their work, from which they were gaining nothing and no doubt thought it safer to content themselves with roving about and plundering here and there.

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I

INTRODUCTION.

I am about to present a brief and popular description of the House of Commons as it has been during recent years and is likely to be in the immediate future.

Before doing so, however, it may be well for me to remind my readers of the claim I have to attempt such a task as this. In other words, what is my practical and personal knowledge of the House of Commons? Well: I was there for ten years, that is, from 1885 to 1895. During that decade excepting autumnal intervals of travel, I gave my whole time and thoughts to Parliament. I attended every sitting from its beginning to its end. I saw everything and heard everything, almost without exception. I was present in almost every division—in round numbers I voted in about three thousand divisions—I always heard the question put by the Speaker before we proceeded to divide upon it, and in every instance I had my own notion regarding its merits. If in any case I was not present in a division—it was not one in a hundred—the cause was either casual illness, or attendance on obligatory duty in the School Board for London, of which I was the Financial Member. Nor did the work end here. I took a full, perhaps even more than a full share, in the Committee work which is one of the heaviest burdens which a parliamentarian has to bear. I served on several Select Committees whose proceedings were protracted over many weeks—of one of these, a peculiarly laborious one, I was Chairman. I was more than once Chairman of Private Bill Committees, for the trial of lengthy and complicated cases in which leaders of the Parliamentary Bar were practising on both sides. I was always a member of the Public Accounts Committee, and, for two busy years, its Chairman—all which necessarily afforded me a complete insight into Parliamentary Finance. I was always a member of one of the Grand Committees on which the House had delegated the work of the Committee Stage for Bills which were referred to it, and these were many. Moreover, my decade was as arduous

and troublesome a one as was ever passed by the House of Commons. It comprised the fiercest, the most persistently waged, the most long drawn-out contests of our generation—all most suggestive and instructive to a student like me of Parliamentary affairs. One consequence, among many others, of this, was the protraction and extension of the regular sessions and a frequency of autumn sessions—so that during my decade the average time annually given to sittings and to the business of the House, must have been considerably greater than in previous equal periods.

A PRIVATE MEMBER'S OPINIONS.

I am thus entitled and able to speak confidently regarding the realities of the House of Commons. My decade embraced three Parliaments, and three General Elections. Thrice I saw a new House assembled, and an old House dissolved. Four times I took my part in the election of a new Speaker. What I have to say, however, must be from my own point of view and from that only. My view is that of a private member taking a constant part in the Parliamentary work. After all that is the view which is the most interesting to those who wish to know the Commons as they are. I never was in Office, and consequently never sat on the Front Bench, though my seat on the green benches was immediately behind it. Any description of things as they would appear from the Front Bench must necessarily touch on statesmanship, which though connected with, is not comprised in the scope of these articles. I was, and am, a Conservative, but the fact of my belonging to a party—which is unavoidable under the conditions of Parliamentary life—will not affect the impartiality and trustworthiness of my account, because the topics do not relate to policy or to the principle of party but to the practice of Parliament. They relate to customs and habits common to all parties, and followed equally whichever party may happen to be in power. Certainly it was my ambition, even before entering on an arduous career in the East, to sit some day in the House of Commons. Besides taking my share, as a unit, in the labours and responsibilities of a great nation, I wanted to witness and to learn all that may be seen and learnt inside the walls of the Commons. Having got there with all the usual difficulty, I was very anxious to stay there at least for several years and several Parliaments. Having been permitted to do this I quitted the House in satisfaction and contentment, quite voluntarily; giving up a safe seat and leaving a fine majority behind me in my constituency. Thus, although my account will not, I hope be unduly tinged with optimism, it will necessarily be cheerful, relating to a retrospect which makes me feel thankful for all that I was able to do and to learn, and well rewarded for all the toil and the sacrifices I had to endure on this account.

THE NATION AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

My conclusion is—subject to correction by those who think otherwise—that there is nothing in the British Empire better worth knowing for a Briton, than the House of Commons at Westminster. Such knowledge is the summary, almost the sum total of very many branches of human study. It contains the acquirements necessary for self-discipline and self-command. It requires the observation of many essential parts of human nature. No doubt the House of Commons is often disparaged nowadays, quite unduly. That is to say, its salient, superficial faults are derided while its solid deep-lying merits are but too often forgotten. With all respect to the public, I submit that it must ever be a bootless, as well as an unthankful, proceeding for any part of the English people to decide or disparage the Commons of Britain. For the House of Commons is just what the people choose to make it. If the popular voice objects to certain things in the con-

duct of the House, they will be gradually overcome. If the constituency by its own warnings deprecates certain things in the conduct of its representative, they will speedily disappear. Indeed I shall have hereafter to show that some faults, popularly attributed to the members at large, are really due to the action and influence of certain constituencies or certain sections in the constituencies generally. If ever we denounce the House of Commons we are really denouncing ourselves. Such denunciation would really be a confession of national faults and shortcomings, though probably not so intended by those who make use of it. To say that the House of Commons is without fault would be as much as to say that the British nation is faultless—which would be absurd. British citizens and electors may be assured that—after every drawback and deduction for defects and shortcomings, their House of Commons is really good, thoroughly trustworthy, sincerely anxious to do its duty in all respects and all round to those whom it represents. Considering the extreme importance of the subject to all our patriotic interests, it is useful for the electors at large not only to read the Parliamentary debates—which is done either in summary or in detail—with some regularity, but also to ascertain the time-honoured rules of the House and the conditions under which the Members have to work, the ways in which they bring the influence and weight of their constituents to bear upon the deliberations and the decisions of the Assembly. The more closely this enquiry is made, the nearer insight is gained, the more clearly will the merits of the Assembly appear, in its debates, its divisions, its enquiries by the various committees. Furthermore large changes have in my time come about, in the system of the House, gradually or quickly for better or for worse. Still the House is the safe depository of the interests of the Empire, and regarding all evils and abuses, is still, and ever has been, the Grand Inquest of the Nation.

IMPORTANT REFORMS.

When in 1884 the Franchise was given to the labourers in the country as it had been already accorded to the artisans in the town, and when the constituencies were sub-divided in view of a redistribution of seats throughout the country, in order that the electors in every locality might make their wishes more immediately and directly felt—when, further, the access to Parliament was greatly cheapened for candidates, the maximum expense being everywhere fixed by law—it was often predicted that there would be a marked deterioration in the quality of the members and in the personnel of the House. It was apprehended that, under the new system, humbler men than previously would become candidates, and that the choice of the electors would fall on such men generally in preference to others,—inasmuch as the purely democratic element would prevail in every constituency. Now has this apprehension been in any degree justified by the result? There can be no doubt whatever as to the answer to such a question, inasmuch as five General Elections have taken place, five times has the House of Commons been composed and re-composed under this system since 1884. The proportion of humble men in respect to resources and social status has certainly increased in the House, and that is not at all regrettable, inasmuch as personal representation of certain important classes has been secured. One disturbing element, namely the Irish Nationalists, has been fully doubled; that may or may not be regrettable, according to the view which may be taken but which is not to be discussed here; it is, however, deeply regretted by many English people. Nevertheless, let the composition of the House be taken on the whole; let the names of the members be looked at one by one in any Parliamentary guide-book, that by Dod-

or by Vacher, or others. Then it will be found that the composition of the House has not deteriorated in comparison with the predecessors elected before 1884. On the contrary, it will be seen to have actually improved, as being more representative than ever of the intellect, the learning, the science, the imperial experience, the businesslike capacity of the nation.

INTERESTS IN PARLIAMENT.

There may in former days have been what was called "A Landlord's Parliament." No such thing would be possible nowadays; but the landowning interest, the county gentleman's party, the agricultural knowledge, are largely, indeed fully represented. The legal profession, always of great consequence in a complex civilisation like ours, deserves adequate representation, which indeed it receives in more than a full measure (the reason being that the Government has very often, perhaps even generally, selected men from the Commons for judicial status and preferment; consequently most of the justly ambitious barristers seek to enter the House). The Railway interest is of recognised importance; it is so fully represented in the House that complainants have, perhaps erroneously, declared it to possess over-representative. Consider the great business classes; the heads of firms, of enterprises, of industries, of banks, in every great centre of the Kingdom,—not only in the City of London, but everywhere at home and abroad, and it will be seen that each and all of them have members in the House. The cheapening of electoral expenses by law, securing on the one hand a reasonable chance for every man of moderate competency, on the other hand precluding an open door for men of no means of their own, or men for whom no means would be subscribed—has had one distinctly beneficial effect. It has enabled retired Governors from India and the Colonies, Army and Navy men, administrators of many kinds, who had served the Empire beyond the seas, men of science, of historic lore, of literary renown, to enter the Commons. This has placed at the disposal of the House a mass of unrivalled knowledge—only to be gained in danger and in the very stress of affairs—regarding the concerns of a world-wide Empire, and that too in days when expansion in all directions is confronting us with momentous problems, wherein the great Powers of Europe are concerned. This too has imbued the House with much of the highest and most varied culture of the age. Happily the Universities of England, Scotland, and Ireland are still represented in the House, and so maintain the influence of trained intellect in the councils of the nation. Thus let any enquirer take name by name alphabetically in the list of any House of Commons elected since 1884—that is under the new system. He will perceive the muster roll of men eminent in science, in literature, in travel, in research, in imperial knowledge of every country in the British Empire or within the British sphere of influence. He will realise the vastness and variety of information thus comprised in the representation of the people. And this knowledge he would find reflected in the debates if he fully listened to them. He will also notice very many names already celebrated in contemporary annals and probably destined to become historic. Further, he will observe how many noble and aristocratic names are there, how many scions of the ancient county families—showing how many democratic constituencies prefer candidates whose antecedents are illustrious or whose families are popularly known. In my time it used to be said that there was no subject (save alone theology) under the sun, no branch of human knowledge, in which we could not find some member or other who would make a speech of authority. In all these respects a comparison may be challenged

between the Houses elected since 1884, and those elected before that time. I am sure that in catholic comprehensiveness the later Houses are wholly superior to the former—as indeed they ought to be.

II.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AS A CLUB.

After the introduction presented in the foregoing article, I enter upon a description, in general terms, of the House of Commons, and more particularly of the life led in it by the members of various sorts and conditions.

A question immediately arises to the surface as to whether the House is or is not a Club for its Members. In some respects it will indeed be found such; but in other respects, not. On the whole it will hardly be so considered. The question, however, well merits some examination.

The phrase that "the House is the best club in London" was at one time a proverb. This must have been in times intervening between the first Reform Act, early in the thirties, and the second one, late in the sixties, when sometimes "a landlord's Parliament" was elected, or when, owing to many causes, there was little of popular election in the constituencies, except in a few at the great centres of industry and population. The proverb must have lost some of its truth after the sixties, when members were returned by household suffrage for the boroughs; and still more, after the last Reform Bill midway in the eighties, when county members came largely to be returned by the rural labourers. By the last named reform, too, the numbers of the Irish Party—already large enough to make a stir—were fully doubled. This particular party then became big enough to make itself felt, not in the political conduct, but also in the social habits of the House. It would be erroneous, then, to call the House the best Club in London at any time since 1885, or even a good club. The only possible question would be whether the House can properly be called a Club at all.

THE CLUB THEORY EXAMINED.

The points in favour of a Club theory would be as follows:—

There are buildings and apartments, halls and terraces, for sitting, smoking, reading, lunching, dining, pacing to and fro for recreation. There are also apartments for the reception of guests, ladies as well as gentlemen. Every reasonable facility is afforded to members for showing their constituents or their friends over the whole House and its precincts at certain hours. Now all these advantages are daily made use of by all the members in common, to whatever party, of whatever class of society, each one of them may belong. Some of these advantages, too, are very considerable. The Library is truly a noble place—extensive, well stocked, commodious and picturesque—most convenient and suitable in every way—not to be surpassed, probably not to be equalled in any club in London. The same may be said of the Terrace, which will be treated more fully in a future article. Enough here to say, that it is quite admirable, and that no Club in London has anything that could in the least be compared with it. The smoking rooms are on a par with those of London Clubs. The dining-rooms are fairly good, but inferior to those of the best London Clubs, and not so good as they ought to be, considering the importance (as will be explained hereafter) of inducing as many members as possible to stay in the House for dinner. The tea-room, though interesting, is very inferior in regard to its place. Adjoining it is a newspaper room still more inferior. The halls, the corridors, the lobbies are capital lounging places. In them there is abundant facility for members to hold interviews with their friends and constituents. If any special consulta-

tion be required, there are Conference rooms provided. In these latter respects, the House is superior to any Club in London.

The sum total of these advantages and facilities would show the House to be in many material matters a Club of high rank. On the whole, any member of any class may, if so minded, spend his day happily and profitably in the House. He may enjoy the sight of noble and historic things, may get fresh air and exercise on the Terrace, may study the newspapers both of town and country, can write magazine articles, may even proceed with the composition of a book in the Library, works of reference being all around him on the shelves.

It were superfluous, however, to remark that the qualities of a Club are not only material and intellectual but also moral and social. And it is here that discrimination is needed to determine whether the House can properly be styled a Club.

ELEMENTS OF A GOOD CLUB.

If we consider the constitution of the good Clubs in London, we readily see that, in everyone of them, there is a certain homogeneity among the members. In some, like the Naval and Military, the Civil Service, the Scientific and the University Clubs, the members belong absolutely to the same class, with the same thoughts and pursuits. In some political Clubs, as for example the Carlton, the members not only have the same thoughts but also belong to nearly the same society; at all events within the Club walls there is not much distinction between noble and gentle, between titled and untitled. In the Travellers Club again, the rule that every candidate must have travelled to a specified extent, creates a certain bond between all the members. The Athenæum contains a great variety of elements—intellectual, ecclesiastical, judicial, political, artistic, scientific, social—still there is a certain tone and atmosphere pervading the whole. It were needless to carry the comparison further; but in all probability an instance of a really mixed Club with members of widely different ideas, bringing-up, and social status, could hardly be found in London. Such a case is very possibly unknown in any organisation under private or corporate management.

Yet the House of Commons is a mixed Club exactly of this description; if it be a Club at all. Most judges, indeed, after defining a Club in the ordinary acceptation would probably decide that it is not a Club in reality.

THE HOUSE APART FROM POLITICS.

No doubt there is much of "camaraderie" among all members of the House without any distinction. The fact of having gone through the same electioneering trials, being beset with the same anxieties in their respective constituencies, does constitute a very perceptible bond between them. Political animosity seldom goes very far—it rarely interrupts private friendship, it never interferes with acquaintanceship. Political convenience in reference to measures before the House may cause members of social rank to converse much with Labour Members. Men who had just been raging furiously against each other from the green benches inside the House, may be seen dining together, or smoking together on the Terrace. Now and again there will be a member so dreaded or so distrusted, or for some special cause so disliked, that no other member will acknowledge or speak to him. But I can call to mind very few such instances. As a rule members widely differing in rank, surroundings, pursuits, ideas, principles, do converse with tolerable freedom, according as opportunity may offer or require, inside the precincts of the House,—even though they may not do so outside. And membership of the House does practically serve

as a medium of introduction at least inside the House. Moreover the system of "pairing," an unwritten system practically operative though not recognised by the rules of the House—does lead to much inter-communication between members of opposite parties. I know nothing personally of pairing—being always present I never paired—but I could daily witness its effect. A Tory and a Radical may be at daggers drawn. But the one wants to go to Germany and the other to Scotland. So they bury their differences and pair!

POLITICAL ISOLATIONS.

Notwithstanding all this, there is not and cannot be that understanding between the members of the House as a body which subsists between the members of a good London Club. The Conservatives may become brethren in arms on their green benches in the House, may become fast friends in the Conference Rooms, may form or cement friendships that last throughout life. The Liberals may do just the same. But it will be groups that are thus formed and groups they will remain. No such distinctive groups would be found in a good London Club. Inside such a club if men are conversing they feel they are in the midst of friends. There is no such confidence among members of the House. Members talking in the lobbies, or at tea, or at the dinner table, on politics or public affairs, must look round to see who may be within earshot, whether any secret may escape, whether an opponent may be on the watch. Again one may converse with another member, personally unknown, on general topics—but one must not mention any political or Parliamentary topic, nor even allude to any Parliamentary personage, for fear of unintentionally giving offence. One must know or divine what party he belongs to, even if one does not like to ask his name, before venturing on any save the most ordinary conversation. His name, however, can be easily learnt by turning the conversation on to his constituency; once that is known, the name of the member can be learnt from any of the reference books. Or, let the familiar case of the dinner table be considered. In a real club anyone may take any place that may be vacant in the dining room, undeterred by those who may be sitting near. But a member would hardly do that in the dining rooms of the Commons. He must, when choosing a place, think of those who are sitting and may probably come and sit near him. Out of the several rooms there used to be one where the Irish Nationalist members dined. A Conservative would not care to dine there; for that would be unsocial for him, and embarrassing to them. In the same way the Radicals dined usually in a certain quarter; the company of a Tory would not be acceptable there. In another room there was a table by courtesy and practice allotted to Cabinet Ministers; a table also assigned to the other members of the existing Ministry: these were in a sense high tables or chief places; and no such arrangement would be possible in a real club. So there were certain quarters where the out and out supporters of the Ministry would dine. One of their opponents could not conveniently dine with them in the brief interval between two parts of the debate, as the conversation would be sure to fall on what had just been happening in the Chamber where they had been playing opposite parts. There was a table where Liberal Unionists used to dine; a Conservative might certainly sit down with them, but hardly a Gladstonian.

Thus the House though comprising many elements of club life, is not technically or really a club—though it may be so called in a special sense. No; it is, for social life among the Members, much more than a club. It is an arena, in the truest sense, where a man has to be in the company not only of those who agree with him but of

those who differ with him, where he finds his own level, however highly he may have heretofore held his head, where he has to smooth away all angularities of temper and of demeanour, where he finds his notions of other people's opinions and principles modified (generally for the better) by personal discussion, where he gets to know countless things not to be learnt anywhere else, where a common membership gives a stamp of equality to all, within the broad limits of the House, whatever be their status in other spheres outside, where the sense of inequality is less than anywhere else in the Kingdom, and where even the best or highest is not more than *primus inter pares* and seldom even that.

THE HOUSE AS SCHOOL AND THEATRE.

Further the House is a school, a public school in the most national meaning of the word: nowhere else is the idea so well understood that the boys are fathers of men. Here in the House, as there in the school, are boys of various ages, sorts, and conditions; the big boys, no doubt, by willing acknowledgment only they must not presume to bully the little ones; the overpoweringly clever boys only they must not lord it intellectually over the duller ones but help them up rather than frown them down; the precocious boys only they must not disport themselves too fast lest they meet with an awkward check from their elders; the pugnacious boys only they must not be too quarrelsome, lest blows should begin to fly and "a row" arise scandalising the whole institution. The Speaker is the Head master indeed and his authority over each boy is plenary; but even then the enforcement depends on the suffrage of the whole body. In this school there is this superiority over all other schools, in that the boys as a whole feel that they must by self-discipline train themselves to sustain the moral authority of their headmaster, as the one bond which holds their body corporate together.

Lastly the House is the national theatre; the Chamber its stage; the precincts are its green rooms; the members are the actors, hopeful not for applause from the immediate spectators, but for the approval of the vast body outside; the debates are the representations with divers dramatic incidents; the footlights are the glare of public opinion beating upon them; the galleries are here the same as in all theatres, only the players must beware of playing too much up to them; the pit and boxes are symbolised by the students and observers of Parliamentary procedure, management, and results. Happy is he who can walk these classic boards with a gait that shall satisfy fair and generous criticism, and shall speak his part with a voice that may penetrate the hearts not only of his constituents, but of the majority among his countrymen.

TERRIBLE HURRICANE IN AUSTRALIA,

(From the Kobe Herald.)

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

Mr. A. Riddell wired to the *Pilot*, under date 9th ultimo, from Cooktown, as follows:—

Sunday's hurricane wrecked the pearling fleets.

The *Meg Merrilees* was driven on the Pelican, and the *Tarawa* was left high and dry. The *Aladdin* was seen by the *Warrego* drifting toward the reef, and the *Crest of the Wave* was clean stripped. The Channel Rock Lightship was gone, and very few luggers appear to be left.

Saw bodies floating for miles.

Have wired the Premier and Treasurer to turn back the *Warrego* and render assistance.

Brisbane, 11th March.

On Thursday the Postmaster at Brisbane received an alarming wire from the Harbour Master at Cooktown, stating that the *Warrego* had arrived, bringing news of a terrible disaster to seven of the pearling fleets and about a hundred luggers off Howick Island, resulting in great loss of life.

The *Warrego* was instructed to immediately proceed north again, and to render every assistance possible to the shipwrecked schooners.

On the journey down many dead bodies were seen floating about. Owing to the heavy weather prevailing, it was impossible to ascertain the extent of the damage. Mr. James Clark estimates that probably there were 1,000 people on all the boats, and the loss of life will probably be very serious. Immediately he heard the news he sent a cable to London to withdraw his company's shell from the next sales.

The schooner *Meg Merrilees*, lately purchased by Messrs. Bowde and Doyle, was reported to be a total wreck.

At seven o'clock on the 8th March the *Kasuga Maru* stopped off Cape Melville, and communicated with the dismantled schooner *Crest of the Wave* and Captain Porter confirmed the reports that the schooners *Silvery Wave*, and *Sagitta* with their fleets of luggers were lost as well as the fleet of the schooner *Skitty Belle*. Captain Porter estimated the loss of life at about 100. Dead bodies were seen floating past all the previous day.

Most of the crew from the *Crest of the Wave* were camped in tents ashore.

Townsville, 10th March.

The steamer *Kasuga Maru* arrived here to-day, and brings news confirming the report of the heavy loss of life and damage to the pearling fleets along the coast during the recent hurricane.

Captain Haswell reports that on the way down the coast he stopped to communicate with the ketch *Eleanor*, the master of which intimated that the schooner *Tarawa* was stranded at Pelican Island but did not appear to be much damaged. The ketches *Xarifa*, *Two Brothers*, and *Rosa* were totally wrecked but all the gear has been saved. The *Barb* and the *Martha* were considerably damaged. The *Ruby* is ashore on a sandbank near land; but the whereabouts of the luggers *Onyx*, *Kafoa*, and *Gertrude* had not been ascertained.

The news received of the Channel Rock Lightship was confirmed, and Captain Porter thinks it has gone down with all hands.

After leaving the *Crest of the Wave* Captain Haswell saw two other wrecks on the shore, and passed three dead bodies.

The *Kasuga Maru* experienced thick, rainy weather all the way down the coast.

At Thursday Island he encountered a strong north-west gale, which was the first bad weather he had experienced on the voyage.

The Captain is under the impression that the gale must have struck the coast about the Claremont Islands, travelling down the coast. On the 9th March, at 5 p.m. the *Kasuga Maru* anchored inside the lee of Palm Islands, the glass falling so rapidly that the Captain did not consider it advisable to proceed on the voyage.

Passing Cooktown at 4 p.m. on the 7th, he spoke to the Pilot Station there. The weather was thick at the time. The *Kasuga Maru* passed a dead body there, and a great quantity of debris.

Captain Haswell thinks there are more wrecks to the north-east of Cape Melville, as he observed several dead bodies came from that direction.

Owing to the heavy weather prevailing at the time, he could not ascertain anything more definite.

FURTHER DETAILS.

Mr. H. Bowden wires from Coen under date 11th ult. to the *Torres Straits Pilot* as follows:—

Arrived Wauwau's Island on Friday, and saw lugger *Sylph*. Learned from her that the *Meg Merrilees* and *Tarawa* fleets were camped at Pelican Island. Proceeded there and learnt the *Merrilees* was a total wreck on an uncharted reef near "I" reef. Captain Thomson reports having experienced a terrible time. He had cut away both masts and had lost all boats and fresh water; and had prepared to make a raft on Monday when the *Eon* sailed up. The vessel was full of water.

The *Wai Weer*, with shell, was a total wreck close by. The luggers *Xarifa*, *Rosa*, and *Martha* of the *Tarawa* Company, are total wrecks. The *Guavarrá Peres*, the *Sprig*, the *Jenny* and the *Yamato* are total wrecks. Nine lives were lost from the *Peres* and *Sprig*. The *Pegasus*, belonging to the Munro Company, is a total wreck. A number of other luggers were ashore but safe.

Proceeded to Flinders, where the full force of the gale was felt, and found the *Aladdin*, *Olive*, and *Crest of the Wave* with about fifty boats safe.

The *Silvery Wave*, *Sagitta*, and *Admiral* are total wrecks, and all hands but one coloured man are lost. Captain Jefferson, Captain Murray, the two Outridges (Harold and Alfred), J. Nicholas, Affleck (? Althow), are lost. The body of one of the Outridges was found and buried; and large numbers of other bodies were found and buried by the natives.

The lugger losses known are as follows:—*Crest of the Wave*, 13; *Silvery Wave*, 16; *Sagitta*, 8; while all hands but 28 coloured men, mostly South Sea boys, are drowned.

All hands on the *Admiral* are lost. Marcus's body was found and buried.

Pedro Guavarrá Peres was drowned.

The lugger *North Wales* sunk near Noble Island, and Captain Powell and all the crew but one were drowned.

The *Warrego* arrived here from Cooktown, and reports seeing the wreckage of the lightship, with one white body, probably one of her crew.

The steamer *Victory* is employed searching about. The *Warrego* returns south to-day, and the *White Star* proceeds to search the Barrier in a northerly direction.

Over forty destitute crews and the surviving boats are being sent to Thursday Island.

Terrible tales of suffering are related by the survivors; in some cases they were for three days swimming. Some escapes are marvellous.

The appearances on shore of the effects of the gale show that the hurricane was terrific. All the trees have been swept bare of branches, leaves and bark, as if they had been fired; and the islands are bared of grass. A large porpoise was found 20ft. up on a hillside. Cowling's boats are safe, having been outside the area of storm.

From Cape Melville to Ninian Bay is strewn with wreckage and bodies, presenting a horrible sight.

The total losses of life are computed at over 300. Fully fifty boats of all kinds are lost.

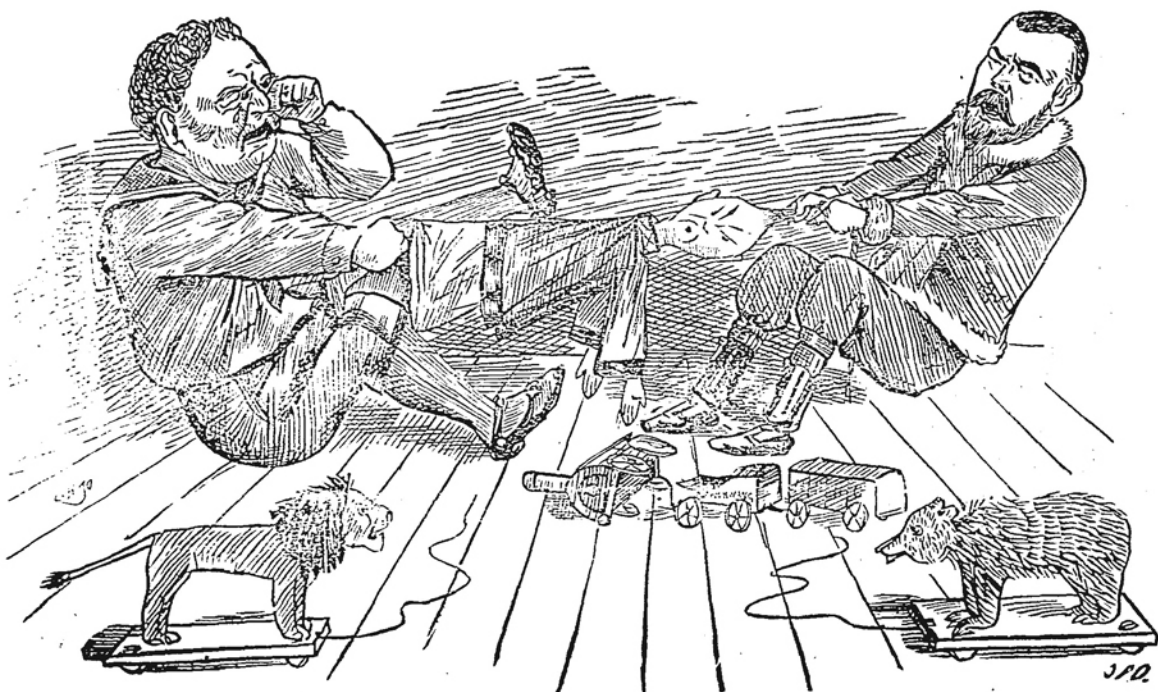
The *Tarawa*, which was stranded, has been got off, and is now safe here.

Brisbane, March 14th.—Particulars of the recent disaster by the hurricane on the north coast show that the earliest reports of the damage to property and loss of life were in no way exaggerated. The total loss is estimated at £50,000; loss of life, 530; besides 13 whites.

Brisbane, 15th March.

Further details continue to be received in connection with the recent hurricane, but give no information beyond that already known. There is not the slightest doubt the storm was the most terrific ever experienced in those parts. It will probably be some time before the full extent of the damage will be accurately known.

THE CHINA SQUABBLE.



"He's upset my Newchwang Railway!"
 "He won't let me have my Doll!"

A MISSING LINK FOUND
IN JAVA.

(From the Hongkong Daily Press.)

The story of the discovery of this extraordinary monster—a reptile called the "Linguin," a sort of missing link between the ichthyosauri of pre-historic days and the well-known saurians of present times, or, in other words, between the monstrous lizard-like creatures of long ago and the alligators of to-day—which lives in Java, is told by Baron Pereira. "I was," says Baron Pereira, "one morning in February, 1898, travelling in a large Javanese canoe with the Assistant-Resident Metman, himself a well-known sportsman. At dawn we found ourselves close to the mouth of the Batavia River. The water at this point was salt, and there was a considerable swell. As we advanced the rowers had considerable difficulty in making headway against the breeze. Suddenly there was enormous excitement among the Malays who manned the boat. 'Linguin! Linguin!' repeated the steersman, seizing me by the arm as he shouted, and pointing excitedly towards the muddy shores along which we were coasting at a distance of about 150 metres.

"It was barely light and all that I could make out was the long, dark form of some large creature lying in the mud. I seized my rifle, but not knowing in the least what a linguin might be, hesitated to shoot. However, the natives grew impatient. 'Linguin!' they cried again. 'Shoot! Shoot!'

"Standing up I took hasty aim and fired. Instantly there was a tremendous commotion in the mud. I saw a huge creature whirling round and round in the liquid ooze, like the firework called a Catherine-wheel. A shout of triumph rose

from my crew, and the steersman, seizing a scimitar, plunged overboard, swam to shore, entered the mud, and attacked the enormous brute. The animal appeared to be half crocodile and half snake, having the body of the former and neck and head of the latter. Upon the approach of the Malay it endeavoured to seize him with its fangs. At length a final blow was struck fairly on its neck and it fell dead. With a good deal of trouble we got it aboard, and its weight nearly bore down under water the gunwale of the boat on the side where we placed it.

"Its length was between 9 feet and 10 feet. Although where cut in deep gashes the flesh exposed was all white, there was no blood flowing from any of the wounds. After we had disembarked we carried the carcass along with us, but owing to the numerous cuts upon it, it became so decomposed that we had to leave it behind. Mr. Metman promised me that I should see plenty more; but alas! never in all the time I was in Java did I see another linguin."

J. W. H. B.

[This is very like Captain Webster's description of the animal seen by him and the crew of the O. S. S. *Nestor* in the Straits of Malacca.—Ed. N.-C.D.N.]

CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE.

—"The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light." Sufferers from Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases. Pimples, and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sold everywhere at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

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Law Reports.

H.B.M.'S SUPREME COURT.

Shanghai, 25th April.

Before Sir NICHOLAS J. HANNEN, Chief Justice.

McELROY v. WEIR.

In this case Mr. Thomas McElroy, lately a chief engineer in the employ of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company, was the plaintiff and Mr. Thomas Weir, superintendent engineer of the same Company, was the defendant.

It was an action brought by the plaintiff to recover damages for alleged defamation of character. Mr. T. Morgan Phillips represented Mr. Weir, while Plaintiff conducted his own case, and the following gentlemen who had been summoned amongst others constituted a special jury to hear the case:—Messrs. E. H. Kenney, D. Main, W. W. Clifford, J. J. Judah, and A. Linton. Messrs. E. A. Probst and E. H. Kenney did not answer to their names and were fined by His Lordship £25. Immediately afterwards, however, Mr. Kenney arrived and apologised for being late, whereupon His Lordship remitted the fine in his case.

The Petition of the Plaintiff was as follows:—

- 1.—The plaintiff is a British subject and by profession a marine engineer.
- 2.—The defendant is a British subject resident at Shanghai and is the marine superintendent of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company, a Chinese Company.
- 3.—The plaintiff prior to the 1st day of October, 1897, was for upwards of seventeen years in the employ of the said China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company as a marine engineer and was during the last thirteen years out of the said period of

seventeen years a chief engineer in the said employ.

4.—On the 1st day of October, 1897, the defendant (as he lawfully might) dismissed the plaintiff from the service of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company.

5.—Subsequently to the said 1st day of October, 1897, the defendant made a statement to the Directors of the said Company concerning the plaintiff in relation to his said profession of marine engineer, such statement being in the following words: "His (meaning the plaintiff's) ability is nothing but common; and after being sent as chief engineer in the steamer *Lee Yuen* he (meaning the plaintiff) twice spoilt the machinery," meaning thereby that the plaintiff was unfit to be a Chief Engineer and was incompetent to perform the professional duties incident to that position.

6.—On the same occasion the defendant reported in writing to the Directors of the said Company concerning the plaintiff in the words set forth in the last preceding paragraph hereof and with the like meaning.

7.—The said statement and report were false, and were false to the knowledge of the defendant and were made maliciously with intent to injure the plaintiff.

8.—The plaintiff has made applications in various quarters for a chief engineer's position without effect and has by reason of the said statement and report been out of employment for the last eighteen months, and is greatly prejudiced and injured in his reputation, and in his profession of marine engineer.

The plaintiff therefore prays:—

1.—That the defendant may be ordered to pay to the plaintiff damages in respect of the said slander and libel.

2.—That the defendant may be ordered to pay to the plaintiff his costs of suit.

3.—That the plaintiff may have such further or other relief as the nature of the case may require.

The Answer of the Defendant was as follows:—

1.—The defendant admits the statements made in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the petition.

2.—The defendant denies that he spoke or published the words alleged or any of them.

3.—The defendant denies he wrote or published the words alleged or any of them.

4.—The defendant does not admit the statements contained in paragraph 8 of the petition.

Plaintiff in opening the case said it would be his endeavour to lay the facts before the Court as concisely as possible and in order to save the time of all concerned he proposed to read the correspondence that had taken place between the Directors of the China Merchants' and himself previous to his discharge from the Company on the 1st of October, 1897. He wished also to refer to an incident in 1892 which would elucidate the actions of the defendant from that date up to the time of his discharge.

His Lordship suggested that it would perhaps be more convenient if the plaintiff would say what he had to say as evidence. Of course he was entitled to open his case but it would be a waste of time to make exactly the same statement afterwards.

Plaintiff assented and referred to a letter he wrote to Director Sheng after his discharge which was as follows:—

Shanghai, 2nd October, 1897.

To

SHENG HUNG-SHUN, Esq.,

Director-General,

China Merchants' Company.

DEAR SIR,—I entered your employ seventeen years ago, after being twelve years in the Inman Royal Mail Steam Ship Company, running between Liverpool and New York, where I entered upon my sea-going life as 5th Engineer and rose by gradation to Chief Engineer. I hold most satisfactory testimonials from the above Company. The following letters which I have written to your Directors, Mr. Shin and Mr. Ching, state my grievance and show the arbitrary and unjust conduct of Mr. Weir, your Marine Superintendent. They are as follows: Doing a thing and then apologising for it has always appeared to me to be inconsistent with reason, and yet that is just the unenviable position which I find

myself in, owing to the unjust and arbitrary action of Mr. Weir, whose conduct on this and other occasions, savours more of the director than Superintendent of the Company. Before I lay my case before you, Sir, as Director of the Company, I am most anxious to impress upon you that I do not approach you through any spirit of insubordination. I am a strict, but just disciplinarian myself. The Company were good enough, in conjunction with the heads of Butterfield's and Jardine's Companies to grant an increase of salary to their employees owing to the depreciation of the Dollar. They arranged the following: That junior Chief Engineers were to have \$175 per month for two years, after two years they were to have \$185 per month for three years, after which time their pay was to be \$200 per month. The above agreement was to date from the 1st March, 1890; hence the five years ended in March, 1895. From the latter date Mr. Weir has given the \$200 per month to Chief Engineers many years my juniors, but most unjustly refused to give it to me, simply on personal grounds. In October, 1895, I got a year's leave, I should have been in receipt of \$200 per month for seven months previous to my leave. I have resumed duty again upwards of four months ago, and yet Mr. Weir, against all sense of equity and fairplay, still persists in refusing to give me the \$200 per month. I entered your service in 1880, with as spotless and as good a record and as competent to perform the onerous duties of a Chief Engineer as any of Mr. Weir's friends in your employ, and I say this with all due deference, and respect, to him and them. I reckon myself an old, and I can conscientiously say, a faithful servant of the China Merchants' Company, who has executed all Mr. Weir's orders willingly and efficiently, and this he can't deny. This being so makes Mr. Weir's conduct towards me all the more outrageously unjust. I have laid my grievance before you, Sir, as Director of the Company, all I ask for is justice and fairplay, and these I am convinced you will grant me by ordering Mr. Weir to raise my salary at once to \$200 per month, and that he is not to have any special rules applying to me which do not apply to all other Chief Engineers in your employ."

Plaintiff continued: After reading the above letter Mr. Shin said that Mr. Weir was treating me most unfairly and ordered him to increase my salary to the \$200 per month. Mr. Weir did not carry out the order of your Director, Mr. Shin, so at the expiration of three months I wrote Mr. Shin the following concise note: "I most respectfully beg leave to inform you that notwithstanding your order to Mr. Weir, to increase my salary to \$200 per month, I am still being paid at the rate of \$185 per month. It is seventeen years ago since I entered your employ; from the first day I started in it, until this day, my conduct will bear the most searching investigation, hence Mr. Weir's action towards me is most arbitrary, and altogether unjustifiable. Hoping that you will insist upon having justice done me, and sincerely regretting having occasion to trouble you." Mr. Shin was leaving your Company, he left word that I was to see Mr. Fie Ting. I called on Mr. Fie Ting, at his Office, and was told that he was out, but that he would be back again in about an hour's time. I left word that I would come back again and see him. I went on board my steamer and was not more than fifteen minutes there before Mr. Weir came on board, and handed me the latter note which I had written to Mr. Shin, and asked me if I knew anything about it. I told Mr. Weir that I had written it, and that it was quite correct. He told me that I would get no higher pay, and that the time which I served the China Merchants' Company was wiped out. I told him that I served the Company faithfully for upwards of seventeen years, and that he was acting in a most arbitrary and unjust manner towards me. Mr. Weir has discharged me on 1st October, against all sense of equity, justice, and fairplay; simply and wholly because I appealed to your Directors against his arbitrary and unwarrantable conduct. As I have stated above, I have been seventeen years in your employ, and I defy Mr. Weir, or any other employed in your Company, either in the Deck department or Engine department, to come before you, Sir, and make a single charge of

any kind against me that I am not prepared to tear into shreds inside of five minutes, and the man who can conscientiously say this after seventeen years of zealous service, I think, is entitled to justice and fairplay, which is all I ask you for. During the whole of the above time, I have carried out willingly and efficiently every order which Mr. Weir has given me, and I am willing to do so in the future. Hoping that you will reinstate me in your employ, at \$200 per month, and that I shall have an opportunity of serving you faithfully in the future, as I can conscientiously say I have done for the last seventeen years, I beg to subscribe myself

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS McELROY.

Plaintiff continuing said he received the following reply to that letter:—

Shanghai, 1st March 1898.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by H. E. Sheng, Director-General of the China Merchants steamship Co to inform you that the Directors of that Company after having examined your petition sent him the following reply. Our Company has two classes of salaries for Chief Engineers one of two hundred dollars and one of one hundred and eighty-five dollars. The Marine Superintendent reports after Chief Engineer McElroy was taken back into the Company by the former Director Shen Nan-hoo he felt himself extremely big and would not obey orders, for instance in regard to mess he must have a separate table by himself. His ability is nothing but common and after being sent as Chief Engineer on the steamer *Lee-yuen* he twice spoilt the machinery, consequently his salary can only be, and he is entitled only to one hundred and eighty-five dollars. I return herewith your petition in Chinese.

Yours truly,

CHU PAU-FAY.

His Lordship asked if the plaintiff was going to prove the letter.

Plaintiff replied that he was not in a position to do so. He had subpoenaed certain Chinese witnesses, but they had not answered. Continuing, he said the allegation of the Marine Superintendent, Mr. Weir, was altogether unfounded and there was not a scintilla of truth in any statement made in the letter; on the other hand, instead of spoiling the machinery he repaired it on two different occasions, and on one occasion he made one of the most remarkable trips ever made on the coast of China. He had a breakdown, a valve face-breaking at Shau-wei-shan whilst proceeding to Newchwang and working only two engines made a most successful trip. He proceeded from Newchwang to Tientsin under a like disadvantage and at Tientsin the valve face was renewed and all repairs finished before the import cargo was out of the steamer, so that there was no detention of the steamer. That was his reply to the allegation which was unfounded and completely untrue. He considered that, working with only two engines, was most remarkable, and many men placed in a similar position could not have done anything like so well. Previous to the 1st of October he had been seventeen years in the Company, and thirteen of them he had been chief engineer. When the pay was advanced by the companies in 1890, it was arranged that the pay was to be for chief engineers, for two years \$175 a month, after that time and for a further period of two years that sum was to be increased to \$185, and after two years more the salary was to be \$200. The Superintendent whilst applying this rule to the other chief engineers, many of them his juniors, would not give him the increase. He told the defendant he was acting most unjustly towards him, and that he ought to be treated in the same way as the others. He asked the reason of this exception, but Mr. Weir would not reply to the query, although he asked him on several occasions. Eventually he laid his case before the Director and that letter he would like to read.

His Lordship reminded the plaintiff that he had alleged that Mr. Weir had made certain damaging statements concerning him and that he had suffered injury in consequence. Therefore it was hardly necessary to go into what happened before he made that statement.

Plaintiff—I object to such allegations; they are made against my professional reputation.

His Lordship remarked that they had to follow certain rules in the Court and again asked the plaintiff if he was prepared to prove the letters and whether he could show whether the parties addressed received them and what part Mr. Weir took in the matter.

Plaintiff said he requested H.B.M.'s Consul-General to have the Chinese in the matter subpoenaed and brought to the Court to give evidence. Mr. Byron Brennan subsequently wrote to him as follows: "I beg to inform you that the Chinese whom you wish to give evidence in the case *McElroy v. Weir* have informed me that they decline to appear as witnesses,—Yours, etc., Byron Brennan." Was he to understand that he could have his character maligned and professional career ruined under cover of Chinese in a British or at any rate a Foreign Settlement? He had not the slightest doubt that the allegations contained in that letter were made by the defendant and the refusal of these men to appear in Court after having been subpoenaed by the Consul-General was for an obvious reason. If they came into Court they would incriminate the defendant and their absence could not lead them to draw any other conclusion. He certainly thought it outrageous that the defendant should under the cover of Chinese ruin his (plaintiff's) character with impunity. He could not see that there was either law or justice in such conduct.

His Lordship said he had nothing to do with that. He could not compel the Chinese to come there and give evidence.

Plaintiff observed that he had done all in his power to bring them into the Court. He wished now to read his letter in reply to Sheng.

His Lordship could not see what would be gained by reading it. If he wanted to raise arguments plaintiff could raise them now.

Plaintiff said he was particularly desirous of reading it to the jury, and Mr. Phillips offering no objection he read the subjoined communication:—

Shanghai, 3rd March, 1898.

To SHENG HUNG-SHUN, Esq.,
Director-General,
China Merchants' Steamship Co.

DEAR SIR,—In reference to my appeal to you against Mr. Weir's unjust and arbitrary conduct towards me, and what I most unhesitatingly characterise as false and defamatory, and grossly malicious charges against me by your Directors. With your Excellency's kind permission I will prove to the hilt the groundlessness of the above charges. Mr. Weir makes three charges against me; his first charge is that on my being reinstated in the Company by your former Director, Mr. Shen Nan-hoo, that I felt extremely "big" and would not obey orders,—for instance, with regard to mess, "he must have a separate table by himself." My reply to the above charge is that it is a spiteful falsehood, and carries on the face of it such puerility and frivolity that it merits no further comment from me. Mr. Weir's second charge against me is one of a very serious nature, and implies that I am incapable of performing the duties of a Chief Engineer; which, by the way, are only second to his own. His charge against me is that my ability is "nothing but common." Happily for me I hold most satisfactory testimonials to my ability as a sea-going Engineer, from a Superintendent Engineer of one of the first-class Companies in England, a man who in comparison, professionally or mentally, Mr. Weir is not qualified to scrape the gravel off the soles of his shoes. I say this with all due deference and respect to Mr. Weir. My

ability is such as enabled me to raise myself by gradation from the position of 5th Engineer to that of Chief Engineer, in the Inman Steamship Company, running between Liverpool and New York, one of the best Companies in England. My ability justified the English Board of Trade in granting me a Certificate of competency as first-class Engineer. How can Mr. Weir be justified in the face of the above evidence in saying that I am a man of no ability? What does Mr. Weir mean by ability? If he means I am not a draftsman, or that I don't possess the qualifications to place myself at the head of my profession, I reply that I have no such pretensions. And I am sure that there is no Engineer in Shanghai, ashore or afloat, who knows Mr. Weir (except it would be one of his spiritless clique) would place him at the head of the profession. As a practical Engineer, either in the proportioning, or managing of Marine Engines, I deny Mr. Weir's capacity to judge my ability. Would your Excellency credit that at the very time Mr. Weir made the above slanderous charge against me of want of ability that through his bungling incapacity, two of your best steamers, the *Kwanglee* and *Fushun* could not carry a single passenger out of Hongkong, as their Passenger Certificates were cancelled by the Surveyor in Hongkong, owing to their inefficient condition. If the above happened in any other Company, the Superintendent would be discharged on the spot and justly so. The fact of the matter is neither your Excellency nor your Directors in the Office know one-half of what goes on in your Company owing to the understanding which seems to exist between your Manager, Mr. Fie Ting, and Mr. Weir, as proof of this I most respectfully refer you to the manner in which Mr. Fie Ting backed up Mr. Weir, when the latter obstinately persisted in setting at defiance the order of your former Director, Mr. Shen Nan-hoo, in reference to myself on the occasion referred to in your letter. Mr. Weir has made a boast that no employee in your Company ever got any satisfaction from the Directors, who appealed to them. Hence his actions are often most unjust and arbitrary, and have created among your employees a dissatisfaction and an abandonment of all hope of having fair-play or justice done them, owing to the above cause, than exists in any other Company in Shanghai. In other Companies, ability, seniority, and sobriety are acknowledged qualifications for promotion. What are the essentials for advancement in your Company? To be one of Mr. Weir's spiritless clique, or a friend of one who is. This statement, I know, will appear to your Excellency incredible, but nevertheless I venture to say advisedly, and in all humility, that a truer statement never was laid before you; and there is not a foreigner in your Company, either in the Deck, or Engine department, but who knows it; but the sufferers of such gross and flagrant partiality must grin and bear it, or leave your service after being in it for years, to seek justice and fair-play in other Companies, which are denied them in yours, owing to the above cause and to your inaccessibility. For instance, in my own case after being unjustly and arbitrarily discharged by Mr. Weir, after serving you efficiently and faithfully for upwards of seventeen years, I appealed to your Manager, Mr. Fie Ting, against Mr. Weir's cruel and heartless treatment of me, his cold reply was that he could do nothing. I put my case before your Directors, they told me that they would look into the matter, but I have no doubt that Mr. Fie Ting and Mr. Weir have made malignant charges against me to your Directors, which caused them not to do me justice. The three infamous charges which Mr. Weir has made against me in the letter which you received from your Directors, I have replied to two of them, and with your Excellency's kind permission I now proceed to reply to the third and last one. The third charge which Mr. Weir makes against me,—namely, that on the steamer *Leeyuen*, I twice spoiled the machinery. Now a more outrageously malicious, groundless charge was never brought by one man against another; when I joined the *Leeyuen* I found the Engines and Boilers in a scandalous state, and I reported the matter to Mr. Weir. I have no hesitation in saying that the Engines and Boilers were a disgrace both to the Chief Engineer, and Superintendent;

the work which I found absolutely necessary to have done, when the steamer laid up for her annual repairs, proves the above statement. The two occasions which he refers to in place of spoiling the Engines, as he lyingly states, I repaired them, and on the former occasion I made one of the most remarkable trips that ever was made on the coast of China, and which could only be done in one way, which way I have no hesitation in saying that Mr. Weir is perfectly ignorant of. The accident occurred off Shawsheishan, the low pressure cylinder side valve face broke into pieces. I proceeded, working both Engines, and arrived safely at Newchwang, averaging 7.9 knots per hour, and carrying 22 inches of vacuum. From Newchwang the steamer went to Taku; on arrival at the latter place I got a new valve face on the cylinder, and by working day and night, had it finished before the import cargo was out of the ship, so there was no detention of the steamer. There is not a Superintendent in any other Company in Shanghai but what would have given me credit for the above, on the coast of China, unprecedented achievement. For the last five years Mr. Weir has put me into the smallest steamers in your Company, and finally, after being seventeen years in your employ, he put me into the old neglected, and run-out steamer, *Leeyuen*; while there are twenty chief engineers in your Company who are juniors to me, many of them not half the time in the company which I have been; and not a single man among them with one half of my experience, and I say this with all due respect to the whole of them; and I don't consider that I lay myself open to the charge of egotism in saying so. For instance, take the *Kwanglee*, the Chief Engineer of her is not half the time in the Company that I have been; hence I consider that my claim to be Chief Engineer of her is beyond dispute; and I respectfully ask you to order Mr. Weir to place me on the above steamer at \$200 per month, and to pay me my salary for the last six months. Place me on the *Kwanglee* and I shall guarantee your Excellency that there will be no more cancelling of certificates, by the English Board of Trade, while I am Chief Engineer of her. I have ventured to put my case before your Excellency, with the firm conviction in your sense of justice. I place myself in your hands, and beg to subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS McELROY.

[Owing to extreme demands upon our space, a full report is held over until tomorrow. We might state that the plaintiff claimed \$25,000 damages for the alleged libel and his costs, but, without the case being opened for the defence, Mr. McElroy was non-suited on the application of Mr. Morgan Phillips; costs of the hearing following His Lordship's finding.]

Plaintiff proceeding said that to that letter he had received no answer and after waiting a certain time he went up to Peking and laid his case before ex-Viceroy Li Hung-chang who was the head of the Company. He proposed to read the petition he forwarded to H.E. Li.

Mr. Phillips, in reply to a question from His Lordship, did not object to the letter being read except that he would like to say that Li Hung-chang was not the head of the Company.

Plaintiff asserted that the Ex-Viceroy was always regarded as the head of the China Merchants' S. N. Co. His petition was as follows:—

Shanghai, 10th June, 1898.

To His Excellency

LI HUNG-CHANG.

DEAR SIR,—I approach your Excellency with unfeigned reluctance, but I have no alternative; I have either to do so or submit to as heartless and malicious a piece of conduct on the part of Mr. Weir, your Superintendent of the China Merchants' Steamship Company, as it is possible to conceive. I can assure you in language of all sincerity that if I had not a clean and spotless record and one that will bear the most searching investigation in every respect before and since I entered your employ to this day, I would not dare to have the temerity to come before your Excellency; but an honest man can appear where a knave

can't. The particulars of my case you will gather from my letters to His Excellency, Mr. Sheng, your Director-General of the above Company, which I enclose. As you will perceive I have been in your employ for upwards of seventeen years, fourteen of which I have been Chief Engineer. After so long and faithful a service I think it very hard and most unfair that I should be discharged by Mr. Weir for simply appealing to your Director against his arbitrary and unwarrantable conduct. That I should have my future prospects blasted by no fault of my own, but solely and wholly through the inconceivable malignity and malicious lying of Mr. Weir, is such an outrage upon all sense of equity, fair play and justice that I feel certain that it only requires to be brought before the notice of your Excellency to merit your stern disapprobation and censure. As a last resource I appeal to your Excellency's sense of justice to order my being reinstated in my position at \$200 per month. Upon your decision, Sir, which is a final one for me depends whether I shall reap the benefit of many long years of toil and anxiety; or whether I shall have to go into a strange company, and for the third time start at the bottom of my profession after being so many years Chief Engineer; I frankly confess that I do not like the idea of having to do so; however, upon your decision depends whether I shall have to go through this trying ordeal again or not. I have ventured to appear before your Excellency not as a cringing sycophant, but as a man fortified with the consciousness of having served you zealously and faithfully for the last seventeen years; and with an implicit confidence in your Excellency's sense of honour that I most unreservedly place myself in your hands, feeling certain that you will not ignore, nor allow to be ignored, the above long and faithful service.

I beg leave, with all deference and respect, to subscribe myself,

Your Excellency's
Obedient and faithful servant,
THOMAS McELROY.

Plaintiff continuing in reference to the letter he addressed to Li Hung-chang said the ex-Viceroy forwarded a reply on the third of July intimating that he forwarded a communication to Mr. Weir in Shanghai in his favour. He called on Mr. Weir in regard to this and asked the defendant to let bygones be bygones. Mr. Weir told him that he could not say anything just then on the matter. He left the office and had now been out of employment over 18 months. He thought it a very hard case that he should have his professional career blighted by Mr. Weir's lying allegations. He had tried at two different places to get a chief engineer's situation but without effect. In fact not only had Mr. Weir ruined his reputation but he had injured him in his business for he would have to leave Shanghai, inasmuch as there would always be a stigma attaching to him after this slander, after being so many years at sea and he had started at the bottom rung of the ladder on two different occasions he certainly did not relish the idea of starting a third time. In the first place a man of his years was rendered physically incapable of doing the work of a junior engineer. Hence he considered his profession had been ruined and that at the lowest calculation T's. 25,000 or \$25,000 would not recompense him for the less he had sustained, apart from the cost he had already been put to. Four per cent interest on that sum would not amount to one third of his salary. Therefore he thought taking all things into consideration in asking for \$25,000 he did not consider he was asking for one cent more than he was justly entitled to. His costs so far amounted to \$2,000 including what he had paid for board and lodging during the time he had been out of employment. Plaintiff then desired to read what he termed a most important letter and no objection being offered he read the following lengthy epistle:

Shanghai, 3rd January, 1899.

To the Director of

THE CHINA MERCHANTS' STEAM
NAVIGATION COMPANY.

DEAR SIRS,—As directed by the Judgment of the Mixed Court delivered on the 21st of December last in the suit brought by me against yourselves, I now ask you to kindly reconsider my case. I may at once state that I knew before I brought my case into the Mixed Court that I had no legal claim upon your Company from an English point of view. Then, knowing this, why did I institute a suit in the Mixed Court? For the following reasons which I will explain as concisely and explicitly as justice to the subject will allow. In the first place I brought my case into the Mixed Court to vindicate my character against as gross and malicious a piece of lying by Mr. Weir, as was ever brought before a Court of Justice. In the second place all Mr. Weir's actions towards me in 1892 have not come under your cognisance; for instance, after accompanying me over to Boyd's and arranging about the work, on the following trip Mr. Weir wanted the 2nd Engineer to say that I gave him no orders about having steam to bring the steamer up to her berth on the previous trip. "If you will say this," said Mr. Weir to the 2nd Engineer, Mr. McGibbon, "then Mr. McElroy will never place his feet upon a steamer in the Company as Chief Engineer." The 2nd Engineer, to his credit be it said, had the manhood in him to tell Mr. Weir that he could not say that I gave him no orders about having steam. "For" said he "Mr. McElroy gave me strict orders before going ashore the last trip to have steam at 5 p.m. to take the steamer up to her berth," and that her not arriving there was owing to his (Mr. McGibbon's) fault and that he was prepared to abide the consequences. Now the above conversation took place between Mr. Weir and the 2nd Engineer of the *Chi-yuen*, it was heard by the late Captain Null who was in the outer Office at the time, and who told it to me; and to confirm it (but Captain Null's word required no confirmation, for he was an honourable man) I was told by the 2nd Engineer when he came on board after being with Mr. Weir, that he wanted him (Mr. McGibbon) to make trouble about the steamer not coming from the harbour limits to her berth the previous trip. I did not deign to ask the 2nd Engineer to repeat to me the tenour of the conversation which took place between him and Mr. Weir. That Captain Null, and the 2nd Engineer, Mr. McGibbon told me the above I am prepared to take an oath before any Consul, or Magistrate in Shanghai. Now, gentlemen, for me to attempt to enter into a lengthened, or indeed into any disquisition at all upon the above inconceivable meanness and malignity of Mr. Weir, would simply be an insult to your understandings, and intelligence. You would reasonably infer from Mr. Weir accompanying me over to Boyd's to arrange about the work; and from the above statement of the 2nd Engineer that Mr. Weir's vindictiveness towards me would have ceased, but not so! notwithstanding the above he had the unparalleled audacity to write me the following grossly malignant, and insulting letter: Dear Sir,—Owing to your leaving your steamer on her last trip below the harbour limits before she had completed her voyage, when it was not absolutely necessary for you to do so. And further because you left no instructions with the 2nd Engineer to obey any orders from the Captain to work the engines when required, but rather that you left the impression on his mind that he was not to start till you returned. The Captain was unable to take the steamer to her berth that night, causing great annoyance, and inconvenience to the Company. Your salary will be from the 1st November, 1892, reduced to \$150.00 per month.

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS WEIR.

On receipt of the above letter (which please note was handed to me by the 2nd Engineer) I called on Mr. Weir, and asked him why he had written me such a letter in face of the above facts; I got no answer from him to my question. I told him that when I took all the circumstances of the case into considera-

tion, his accompanying me over to Boyd's and arranging about the work, and then on the following trip to write me the above letter; and in face of the above statement of the 2nd Engineer, to say that I came ashore without leaving instructions with the 2nd Engineer about the steamer coming up to her berth; and his reducing my salary to \$150 per month—"The man," said I to him, "who could write the above letter, notwithstanding the above stated facts, was totally destitute of principle." On my salary being reduced to \$150 per month I refused to run the steamer at the reduced salary, and stopped behind to lay my case before your predecessor, Mr. Shen Nang-hoo, who upon reading my letter said that my salary was reduced to \$150 per month by his order, but that Mr. Weir's representation to him about the steamer *Chi-yuen* not coming to her berth the trip before the last one, was altogether different to my statement of the case; and that after reading my letter, that he changed his mind, and considered that Mr. Weir was acting most unjustly, and shamefully towards me. He told me that on my steamer's return to Shanghai that I would be placed on her without any reduction of salary; and he gave Mr. Weir orders to this effect, as your Manager, Mr. Tong Fung-chee, and Mr. Kwan Chi-ming can verify; however, Mr. Weir did not carry out the orders of Mr. Shen Nang-hoo, but set his orders at defiance for 3 months and 23 days, during the whole of this time notwithstanding repeated instructions from the Director, Mr. Weir persisted in ignoring his instructions until expiration of the above time, when he received a peremptory order to place me on my steamer; even then he did not carry out his orders, for he placed me upon one of the smallest steamers in your company the *Kiangtung* which was running between Hankow and Ichang. And it was not until I gave the Captain of the above steamer the letter of my appointment, that I was aware that my salary was reduced for two months to \$150.00 per month, this I feel certain was done without the sanction of the Director. So you will perceive from the above, that my being at the Hotel des Colonies for the above time was owing to the obstinacy, and insubordination of Mr. Weir in setting the order of his superior at defiance. To show what value is to be placed on Mr. Weir's word please note his answer to the learned Assessor's question in Court: By whose order was Mr. McElroy re-placed in the Company in 1892? Mr. Weir lyingly replied that he replaced me himself as an act of charity, on account of my being a poor man; had Mr. Weir given the above statement upon oath, he could have been prosecuted for perjury. No doubt when Mr. Weir stated in open Court that I was replaced in the Company as an act of charity he thought he was belittling me; (but I can tell Mr. Weir that it is not in his power to belittle me, a gentleman wouldn't and a liar can't) he had not the mental capacity to perceive that in making that statement that he was simply making a fool of himself. I consider that Mr. Weir in upbraiding me upon my poverty in open Court paid me a very high, though an unintentional compliment; he has at least borne testimony to my honesty, for if I am a poor man after being seventeen years in your employ, thirteen years of which I have been chief engineer, it proves that I have been an honest man; and by the bye, I have seen it in print, and have often heard it verbally that an "Honest man is the noblest work of God." Now there is one thing which mars the unmixed pleasure which I would derive from the above great compliment; truth! I owe it to thee to divulge that one thing. Alas! it is not in my power to return the compliment. Just one more specimen of Mr. Weir's veracity. When the learned Assessor, Mr. Bourne, asked him in Court why I did not get the \$200 per month when I returned from Home leave in 1896 which I was justly entitled to in accordance with the agreement which was made with the engineers of the company in 1890? to which question Mr. Weir replied that I had a special agreement with the company, that I was not to get any more than \$185 per month, now I most positively deny that I ever had any such special agreement with the company; and when Mr. Weir made the above reply in Court, he knew that he was telling an untruth. He also stated in Court that I did not get the \$200 per month owing to

my writing to and annoying the Director; against such reckless lying I feel utterly powerless. Now the truth is when I came back from Home leave in September 1896, I asked Mr. Weir to be good enough to give me the \$200 per month, that in fact I should have had the \$200 for seven months before my leave of absence. At the end of the month I was paid at the rate of \$185 per month. I again asked Mr. Weir to be good enough to give me the \$200 he said that he would consider the matter but that it would take him a long time to decide it; I told him that it didn't require such lengthened consideration for him to give the \$200 per month to all the other chief engineers in the company who were entitled to it and got it from the 1st March, 1895. I asked him why he was treating me in such an exceptional and unjust manner; please note, his reply was that I just got back into the Company in 1892, by the skin of my teeth; I told him that I was not out of the Company in 1892. I asked him what did I ever do to forfeit the confidence and respect of the Director of the company; I told Mr. Weir that he was treating me most unfairly and that if he did not give me the \$200 per month, that I would be obliged to lay my case before the Director, Mr. Shen Nang-hoo. I waited another month when I was again paid at the rate of \$185. So on the 12th of February, 1897, I wrote to the above Director and placed my case before him; when he read my letter, he said that Mr. Weir, was treating me unjustly and ordered him to increase my salary at once to the \$200 per month. Mr. Weir did not carry out the order of the Director; on the 5th May, 1897, I again wrote a short note to the Director informing him, that notwithstanding his order to Mr. Weir three months ago, to increase my salary to \$200 per month, I was still being paid at the rate of \$185 per month. On receipt of my note, the Director Mr. Shen Nang-hoo again ordered Mr. Weir to increase my salary to \$200 per month; then Mr. Weir told the Director that the steamer *Leeyuen* which I was in was a small paid steamer (which was a barefaced lie); then the Director Mr. Shen Nang-hoo, ordered Mr. Weir to transfer me to a steamer on which \$200 per month were paid; and to place one of the junior chiefs on board the *Leeyuen*. This Mr. Kwan Chi-ming can verify. Unfortunately for me Mr. Shen Nang-hoo left the company at this time; so Mr. Weir took advantage of this, and failed to carry out his order, and continued to pay me at the rate of \$185 per month; until he arbitrarily discharged me on the 1st October, 1897, under the lying plea that I annoyed the Director. When I expressed my regret to your predecessor Mr. Shen Nang-hoo, in 1892 and in 1897 at being under the necessity of troubling him he told me that I was perfectly justified in laying my case before him, and that he would have justice done me as he considered that Mr. Weir was acting most unjustly towards me. And to the credit of the Director be it said, the above proves that he was a man of his word. And had he remained in the Company Mr. Weir would have had to carry out his order, and done justly by me. In reference to the charges which Mr. Weir has made to yourself against me, and has not only failed to prove, but had the temerity in open Court to deny that he ever made them. Now what language could adequately describe the meanness of the above conduct? Certainly not the paucity which I have got at command; nor could I, if I had the language of a Cicero, or a Demosthenes himself. I beg leave to draw your attention to two facts. (1). The grossly malignant charges which Mr. Weir has made to you against me, he has had the temerity to flagrantly deny in Court. (2). I have come out of Court with an untarnished record, not leaving it in the power of your Marine Superintendent to prove one single charge of any kind against me, during the whole of the seventeen years which I have been in your Company. Surely this record entitled me to different treatment to what I have received from Mr. Weir, for the last six years. Just a few words in reference to the position of your Marine Superintendent and my own as Chief Engineer. Being his junior in rank, in your Company I know it is my duty to carry out his orders to the best of my abilities. This I have done in the past, and this I am prepared to do in the future; whether the Marine Superintendent be Mr. Weir, or any other

person it matters not to me. I am a strict but just disciplinarian myself. I have got as Chief Engineer most important duties to perform to the Company, irrespective of the Superintendent, whoever he may be. That I should be called upon to sacrifice the above time owing to no fault of my own in any respect; but wholly, and solely to gratify the personal malignity of Mr. Weir, would be such a gross act of injustice toward me, now as I have laid the whole of my case before you, that as gentlemen of honour you will not allow me to be made the victim of such base injustice, after such a long and faithful service. In conclusion I respectfully ask you to replace me in your Company; in one of your best steamers, which my ability, my experience, and my past services in your employ justly entitles me to; and enable me to finish what his Excellency Li Hung-chang characterised as a good record. I ask you with all due deference and respect to grant me the above favour, not as an act of compassion, nor as an act of charity; but as an act of justice, and fair-play between man and man. I conclude by a single quotation from a deceased fellow countryman of Mr. Weir's whose name is almost worshipped at home, and revered abroad, in all the four quarters of the globe; and by none more so than myself. "He bade me act a manly part, though I had never a farthing. For without an honest, manly heart, no man was worth regarding."

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,
THOMAS McELROY.

P.S.—There are twenty-one Chief Engineers in your Company who are juniors to me.—T.M.

Plaintiff further asserted that this was not the only occasion on which the defendant had grossly maligned him. In 1892 the steamer he was in arrived just below the harbour limits and was in need of certain repairs which demanded expedition. The ship was anchored and was to come up on the tide at five o'clock in the evening. At ten minutes to four he asked the Captain's permission to go ashore to see Mr. Weir before the vessel came up to Kinleeyuen and arrange about the repairs so that they could be entered upon the first thing in the morning and save unnecessary delay. He told the second engineer to be sure and have steam ready by five o'clock and proceeded at once with the Requisition he had made out and saw Mr. Weir in his office. Subsequently, they both went over to Boyd's and made arrangements for a man to be aboard the first thing next morning. Well, in consequence of the bungling incapacity of McGibbon, the second engineer, the vessel did not arrive until the following day. Defendant said McGibbon was an ass and did not know his work, but subsequently, Mr. Weir wrote to plaintiff and a letter was sent, in which the failure of the steamer to come up was laid to his charge, and was made the pretext for reducing his salary.

Mr. Phillips said he had to make an objection simply on one ground and that was that a long recital of something that happened in 1892 was simply wasting the time of everybody in the Court and had nothing whatever to do with the case; plaintiff admitted in his petition that he had been rightly discharged.

His Lordship—Let him go on. So far as I am concerned, Mr. McElroy, I can sit here three or four days but you must remember that there are five gentlemen here who have business to attend to. You allege in this petition that Mr. Weir has said certain things, and that in consequence of these certain things you have suffered injury. What can it possibly matter what he did in 1892.

Plaintiff—It gives you an insight into Mr. Weir's actions up to the date of this petition.

His Lordship—But you admit in your petition that he had a right to discharge you?

Plaintiff—He had a legal right.

His Lordship—Well, we cannot enquire into the moral rights.

Plaintiff then wished to read the reply he had received from a letter he was requested by the Mixed Court Magistrate to send in to the Directors on the 12th January, 1899.

His Lordship objected to its being read. Plaintiff said his letter was written at the instigation of the Mixed Court Magistrate who told him he would be liberally compensated. The reply was dated 24th February, 1899.

Mr. Phillips offering no objection, Plaintiff read the reply which was in acknowledgment of his letter of the 12th January stating that the Directors could do nothing for him, and that he had been dismissed for his importunities in addressing the Directors and causing them annoyance. The letter which he was requested to write after he had sued the Directors in the Mixed Court showed their sense of justice and fairplay.

Mr. Phillips—That is not correct.

His Lordship—I suppose the Magistrate merely advised you to write the letter.

Plaintiff—I say it shows their sense of justice, equity and fairplay.

Mr. Phillips—Have you not a letter of the 5th January, before the letter you have just read?

Plaintiff then read a letter from the Directors in which they enclosed without admitting liability a *comproadore* order for \$500. But he contended that this was only part of a sum of \$964 which was owing to him while he was living on shore out of a ship. He contended that during three years and 24 days whilst he was living at the Hotel des Colonies he was still in the pay of the Company.

Mr. Phillips—It was a compassionate settlement.

Plaintiff—It was nothing of the kind and I would have the learned Counsel understand that I am no more an object of compassion than he is or anybody else. Continuing he contended that it amounted to an order of the Court which expressed the opinion that, whilst the Company had every right to discharge a servant without stating their reason, if he addressed them and explained his position they would liberally compensate him.

Mr. Phillips—That was not the order. The judgment as printed in full in the *N. C. Herald* says—

In the matter of the British subject McElroy accusing the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company of having dismissed him from their service without just cause, thereby damaging his character, and claiming the sum of \$964.93 for wages plus interest on same since 27th January, 1894, together with \$5,000 compensation for loss of reputation through dismissal, the case has frequently come before Mr. Bourne and myself, and the facts elicited are as follow:

McElroy on 28th October, 1892, received a letter from the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company reducing his wages, as he did not consent to this arrangement he left his ship, returning subsequently to his duties in the Company. On the 1st October, 1897, he was dismissed.

Now the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company enter into no agreement with their employés, and the question of increase of wages, dismissal from or retention in their service is one entirely for the management to decide, and Mr. McElroy's affair being one of that nature, it is not for me to deal with it.

McElroy has been in their service now for over 17 years and has given abundant proof of his diligence, ability and zeal, and his dismissal now is in consequence not of any fault in the discharge of his duties but merely on account of the annoyance he caused by his importunities, and it is a question for the Company to decide whether or not, in view of the above circumstances, they will make him some compensation

grant; but he should address his request to them himself.

(Signed) U. K. CHENG.
Acting Mixed Court Magistrate.

Plaintiff in conclusion re-asserted his claim to damages for what he considered the gross injury he had been subjected to. He was physically incapacitated from undertaking anything but a chief engineer's situation and his whole reputation had been simply ruined by the base, cruel and malicious allegations of the defendant. He had proved nothing against him, and he defied anyone to say he was not capable in his business, or that complaint could be made against his character and diligent attention to duty. In the circumstances he did not think, in asking for \$25,000 and his costs, that he was asking for anything more than he was justly entitled to.

In reply to his Lordship he said this completed his case having through no fault of his own no witnesses to call.

Mr. Phillips—I am in a most peculiar position, my Lord. If I am to cross-examine I really don't know what to cross-examine upon. He has proved nothing and shown absolutely no cause. He has not proved that this letter which he alleges was a libel was written by Mr. Weir at all, or that he was responsible for its being written. I therefore apply for a non-suit, your Lordship.

His Lordship—Mr. McElroy, a plaintiff has got to prove his case. You have said you have no further evidence than you have already produced, and Mr. Phillips has applied for a non-suit on the ground that you have not proved what is necessary to launch your case. You cannot call other evidence now because you have no further evidence, and you cannot call Mr. Weir without you subpoena him. You are in this position that you must stand or fall by what you have already proved, and it amounts to this that somebody wrote to you and said that Mr. Weir had said certain things about you. That is you have not proved he did, and therefore it would be wasting the time of the jury and my time and your time to go into any further discussion. I think everyone will see perfectly plainly that you have not the means of proving what you allege against Mr. Weir. It may be the fault of the Chinese or of Chinese law, but it is not possible for me to force these people to come forward and give the evidence you want. Under these circumstances I have nothing to do but to admit Mr. Phillips' motion and non-suit you. The result of that is this, that if at a future time you should be able to prove that this libel and this slander were uttered, you may under certain circumstances be able to do so, but if you go on and the jury give a verdict against you, then there would be an entire ending.

Mr. Phillips—I will make an application on behalf of my client for costs. When the case was heard in the Mixed Court the letter was read for the first time in the hearing of Mr. Weir and he repudiated it entirely.

His Lordship—In the ordinary course cases of this kind carry the costs. You are entitled to your costs.

Mr. McElroy—Can't I have the defendant sworn?

His Lordship—No; the case is at an end.

Mr. McElroy—I must say I think it is very hard on me.

His Lordship—You may think it a hardship, but the greatest hardship falls to the lot of these five gentlemen here who have been taken from their businesses to come here with nothing to lay before them. (To the Jury) Gentlemen, your duty is accomplished and I regret very much that it has been necessary to bring you here under the circumstances.

Mr. McElroy—May I address you for a few minutes, My Lord?

His Lordship—What do you wish to say?

Mr. McElroy—I think I am quite justified in asking for Mr. Weir to be sworn. He has maligned me grossly and I have not the least doubt that he said what was contained in the letter.

His Lordship—If that is all you have to say it is quite useless. I have dismissed this case and there is an end of it. I am sorry to have to say so, but I think the letters which have been read in Court, show that the abuse and possible libel and slander have not altogether been on Mr. Weir's side, and after reading these letters to complain is simply absurd for you have accused him of everything and called him all the names you could lay your tongue to.

27th April.

*In re THE TAKU TUG AND LIGHTER CO.,
AND CHANG CHI (ON APPEAL FROM
THE PROVINCIAL COURT OF TIENTSIN).*

JUDGMENT.

His Lordship gave judgment in this matter in the following terms:—This is a case which comes on appeal from H.M.'s Court at Tientsin where the Judge of the Provincial Court with the approval of the assessor found for the plaintiff for Tls. 3,944 with costs. The facts and findings of the Court have been so carefully and fully set out in the judgment of the Court below that it is unnecessary for me to go over them again. I think that no ground has been shown for altering the order of the Court below. The judge and the assessor came to the conclusion that the defendant's tug boat was as the judge expressed it "mainly to blame for the collision." He in his judgment explained to what extent and in what manner he considered the plaintiff's junk to blame: he says: "At the same time I think that had the paper boat made sure that the *Kaitai* had seen her before getting so close by hanging the lantern over the stern, waving it or putting it in some more conspicuous position than on the deck, or by shouting, the collision might possibly have been avoided." I am clearly of opinion that the junk being as the judge has found on her proper side of the river she was not bound to do anything but keep her course until there was risk of collision. I have said that the only thing the junk was bound to do was to keep her course. Did she do this? The Court below found and I think in accordance with the evidence that she did keep her course until within about 22 seconds of the collision when it was practically inevitable. Now it is to be found in the cases, but is a rule of common sense also, that if by your fault you place another in such a dangerous situation that he fails to do what turns out to be the best thing, you cannot throw the blame of his mistake on him. In the present case the junk appears to have been proceeding properly up the river when it found a tug within 200 feet of it. It ported its helm which was the right thing to do if the tug followed the proper course and passed on the port side. As it turned out the tug was trying to come up the starboard side of the junk but under the circumstances I do not think that the junk can be held to blame for porting its helm when it did. As to the lantern I do not think that the man who was steering could have been expected to leave the helm and go and fetch it in order to wave it or hang it over the stern. Neither could the other members of the crew be expected to leave their poling to do this. I think that as to the question of a lantern being on the junk or not the balance of evidence is in favour of there having been one. I do not therefore think that the facts found by the Judge below warrant the inference that the plaintiff's junk was guilty of contributory negligence. The result of this would be that had the case come before me in my original and

not in my appellate jurisdiction I should have found entirely for the plaintiff and given him all damages he proved himself to have suffered. As the case comes to me on appeal and there has been no appeal by the plaintiff against the amount of damages awarded I think the proper course is for me simply to dismiss the appeal with costs, which so far as the costs of the appeal are concerned I assess at \$200. I should add for the information of the Court below and other provincial Courts (1) That the Court below was right in assuming that it had no Admiralty jurisdiction (2) That it was right in deciding which was to blame without reference to Admiralty rules. (3) That by the Judicature Act 1873, sec. 25 Sub. sec. 9, if in a collision between two ships both are found to blame, the rule in force in Admiralty (i.e. that each ship shall recover from the other half its own damages and be liable to pay half the damages of the other) is to prevail.

Mr. Morgan Phillips appeared for the respondent and Mr. Platt for the appellants.

*In re JOLY AND THE SUN LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY OF CANADA.*

Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, on behalf of the plaintiff in this pending suit moved for a commission to issue to Corea to obtain the evidence of the plaintiff, Mrs. Clara Agnes Joly and Mr. J. N. Jordan. Their testimony Counsel urged was material and necessary and for reasons stated in his affidavit it was not possible for them to attend the Court.

Mr. Platt and Mr. Duncan McNeill opposed the application on behalf of the defendants the former however taking no part in the argument.

The summons on behalf of the plaintiff stated as follows:—

Let all parties concerned attend the Judge in Chambers on Thursday the 27th day of April 1899, at 10 30 o'clock in the forenoon on the hearing of an application on behalf of the plaintiff for an Order that a Commission do issue directed to Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul for the time being at Chemulpo, Corea, for the Examination by *Interrogatories* and *Vid roce* at Seoul Corea of John Newell Jordan, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul General and *chargé d'affaires*, and the plaintiff Clara Agnes Joly witnesses on behalf of the plaintiff in this action. And that the depositions to be taken under and by virtue of the said Commission may be ordered to be filed in this Court, and that parties may be at liberty to use the same as evidence in this action, saving all just exceptions. And that the attendance in Court on the trial of this action of any witnesses who shall have been examined under the said Commission may be dispensed with and that the trial of this action may be postponed until after the return of the said Commission, and that the costs of this application and of the execution of the Order to be made thereupon and all costs incidental thereto be costs in the cause.

Mr. Wilkinson in opening the case said he applied in regard to the above action for a commission to issue to H. M.'s Vice Consul at Chemulpo for the examination of Mrs. Joly and Mr. Jordan *vid roce* and in support of the application he had filed the following affidavit:

I Hiram Parkes Wilkinson of Shanghai in the Empire of China Barrister-at-law Counsel for the plaintiff make oath and say as follows:—

(1) I verily believe that the following are material and necessary witnesses on behalf of the plaintiff namely John Newell Jordan Her Britannic Majesty's *Chargé d'affaires* Seoul, Corea, and the above named plaintiff Clara Agnes Joly.

(2) The evidence of the witnesses in the last paragraph is material for the following reasons:—

(a) The said John Newell Jordan as the immediate chief of the late Henry Bencraft Joly was well acquainted with him and in constant communication with him and is able to give material evidence as to the state of health of the said Henry Bencraft Joly and

as to his the said Henry Bencraft Joly's knowledge thereof.

(b) The said Clara Agnes Joly as the wife of the said Henry Bencraft Joly is able to give material evidence as to the state of health of the said Henry Bencraft Joly and as to his knowledge thereof and as to the allegations contained in the answer of the defendants filed in this suit.

(3) The said John Newell Jordan and Clara Agnes Joly are at present residing at Seoul, Corea and it is practically impossible to produce them at the trial for the following reasons.

(a) The said John Newell Jordan is unable for this cause to obtain leave of absence from his official duties.

(b) The said Clara Agnes Joly is in a delicate state of health and has the charge of four young children she is at present employed in a position from which it is impossible for her to obtain leave of absence for longer than one month and owing to the present infrequency and uncertainty of the means of communication between Corea and Shanghai and *vice versa* the length of each absence would be insufficient for her to appear and give evidence in this Court otherwise than *de bene esse*.

(4) I verily believe that the hearing of this suit cannot safely take place without these witnesses and that it is necessary for the purposes of justice that their evidence should be taken on Commission.

(5) It is intended to take the examination upon interrogatories before Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Chemulpo for the time being.

Sworn at Shanghai this 22nd day of April 1899, before me.

(Signed) H. P. WILKINSON.

Mr. Wilkinson, continuing, said it was unnecessary for him to say whether there was a real issue to be tried between the parties, but as regarded the *bona fides* of the application it depended upon whether or no there was any reason why the proposed witnesses should not be examined in Shanghai, and if his Lordship had any suspicion that it was an application to keep them out of the way he would refuse the application. As regarded Mr. Jordan he thought his affidavit stated the fact. Mr. Jordan was in charge of British Government affairs at Seoul and it was obvious that it was impossible for him to get leave to come to Shanghai and give evidence in this suit, especially having regard to the difficulty of communication between Shanghai and Corea. As regarded Mrs. Joly he would probably have to make out a stronger claim as to why she should not be brought here. There were several cases which no doubt his learned friends on the other side would quote in their attempt to make a hard and fast rule that a plaintiff should not be examined on commission except on very strong grounds. But in all these cases the plaintiff was the person who was claiming something from the defendants in regard to or in consequence of something the plaintiff was said to have suffered. In this case however Mrs. Joly was only the nominal plaintiff as the executrix of the estate of her husband Mr. Henry Bencraft Joly, deceased. She was not the real plaintiff and the suit was not in respect of anything she had said or done, or suffered whilst the answer of the defendants was practically a statement that the deceased Mr. Joly had been guilty of fraud. Mr. Joly so to speak was the real plaintiff and if he was alive and in Corea then of course it would be a very serious matter to apply to have him examined on commission. But in applying for a commission to take Mrs. Joly's evidence it was not in relation to any thing she may have said or done. The only real capacity in which she could come to the trial as a witness was to speak to something that Mr. Joly may have written or said or done. She was therefore a necessary witness and he was not applying for a commission to take her evidence in the capacity of plaintiff in the ordinary way but as the wife of the real plaintiff. As his affidavit showed she was employed in

Corea, was in delicate health, and had the charge of four small children, whilst, added to that, if they looked at the altogether uncertain means of communication between Corea and Shanghai it would be seen that it was next to impossible for her to attend the Court, especially seeing that in her position she could only obtain a limited leave of a month at the most. As regarded the relevancy of the evidence asked for the answer of the defendants, to put it shortly, was an allegation of fraud on the part of Mr. Joly. Now it was unnecessary for him to go to many cases to show what constituted fraud. It might be taken to be a false representation of fact made with the knowledge that it was a falsehood or with a reckless disregard whether it was true or false and actually inducing someone to act upon it, but the remaining part of this definition of fraud consisted in statements as to the mental attitude of the party. Knowledge and intention were the two ingredients in fraud but apart from knowledge and intention Mr. Joly was now dead and as the defendants had accused him of fraud any direct evidence as to his intention or knowledge of the facts in dispute was absolutely material and was the only material evidence the plaintiff was able to bring forward as Mr. Joly was unfortunately dead. Mr. Jordan was intimately acquainted with him and with Mrs. Joly his wife was able to show the mental state of Mr. Joly at the time. Their evidence was absolutely material and in fact formed the only material point in the case. Here was a dead man accused of fraud. It depended on his mental attitude whether it was fraud or not and his mental attitude could only be known by his acts and words known to persons most intimately acquainted with him. He would refer His Lordship to the case of *Lang v. Tate (Chancery Division 24, p. 522)*. He referred to that case because the case of *Burdan v. Greenwood* one of the leading cases on refusal of commission was dealt with, where it was attempted to keep a man out of the way in order to avoid him being cross-examined. There could be no suggestion of that kind in this case for as he had stated she was only the nominal plaintiff. Counsel cited the cases of *Ross v. Woodford (Chancery Division 94 p.1)* *Armour v. Walker (Chancery Division 25 p. 673)* and the well-known case of *Koch v. Alcock (Q.B. 21)*. He quoted the latter simply because it dealt with the decision in *Lawson v. The Vacuum Brake Company* which was a strong case against issuing a commission. Continuing he said his application was not in any way made to cause delay and he might say that he had at the first possible moment made final arrangements for the evidence of these material witnesses.

Mr. McNeill in opposing the application said it would be well first to deal with the question of delay, and although it might be very difficult to prove that the application was made with any intention to delay the trial still at the same time there must be a very great and improper delay. His Lordship was well aware that a previous application was made in the latter part of last year in regard to other evidence and a commission was directed to issue. He submitted that at that time both Mr. Jordan and Mrs. Joly were in Corea and he presumed that Mr. Wilkinson was then equally well instructed as to the knowledge which Mrs. Joly possessed of the habits and health of her husband. He had no hesitation in saying that the present application should have been made when the previous commission was asked for and by not then applying for it if the present application was granted it would result in a delay which under the circumstances was extremely improper. A great deal of the argument addressed to his Lordship seemed to the speaker to deal with matters not at all present in the

minds of those who represented the defendants. They did not propose to suggest that His Lordship had not got complete discretion in allowing a commission to issue. It would be impossible in the face of decided cases to take up such a position, but what they did maintain, and it was based on authority, was that the Court would apply a stricter rule where an application was made to examine a witness who was interested in the result. That was supported by all the recent cases, which whilst acknowledging the discretion of the Court set forth that that discretion should be exercised most strictly. He quoted *Koch and Alcock* in support of this contention and remarked that His Lordship would see from the pleadings before him that Mrs. Joly although possibly as Mr. Wilkinson had stated merely a nominal plaintiff was a person very much interested in the result of the case. There was no suggestion that she had been guilty of any improper conduct in the matter but it was admitted that she was the executrix, so that to his mind she was anything but a nominal plaintiff. She was the person to benefit by this action if any benefit fell to the share of the plaintiff, and unless good reason was shown to the contrary she most certainly ought to be examined in this Court. He considered the evidence offered in support of the commission was miserably insufficient, and although in regard to Mr. Jordan they might consent to waive something they could not in regard to Mrs. Joly. He further submitted that the affidavit was insufficient and thought it should have been supplemented by others from Mr. Jordan and Mrs. Joly. Furthermore he was not satisfied that there was any such difficulty in reaching Shanghai from Corea. There was constant communication with Nagasaki, from which Corea could be reached, and also with Chefoo from which communication might also be had with Corea. He was of opinion that even supposing Mrs. Joly only succeeded in obtaining four weeks leave she could easily come to the trial and return within the limits of her leave. Mr. McNeill proceeded to read a number of extracts from decided cases, dealing with the question of commissions and added that should the application be acceded to, the defendant company would be put to considerable expense inasmuch as it would be necessary to send a representative to Corea to cross-examine the witnesses, citing the case of *Lawson v. The Vacuum Brake Company* in this connection. In conclusion he submitted that it was not necessary for the purposes of justice in the case to examine Mrs. Joly on commission, as it would prove oppressive on the defendants in regard to the matter of expense. If the commission was allowed to issue it should certainly provide for *voir dire* examination and he might add that the defendants most strongly dissented from the suggestion that H.M.'s Vice-Consul in Chemulpo was a suitable person to act as a commissioner. In a case of this sort he thought it would be most improper where a previous Vice-Consul was distinctly charged with something, for his successor or indeed any of his successors to sit and take evidence. Notwithstanding the fact that it might be impossible to obtain any competent British subject for the purpose he did not think that Mr. Joly's successor should be allowed to sit as Commissioner.

Mr. Wilkinson briefly replied and failed to see that Counsel for the defence had advanced any tangible reason why his application should not be granted. Mr. McNeill had offered no opposition to a commission issuing in respect to Mr. Jordan, so that he took it that His Lordship would infer that no case had been made out against his examination. Supposing for a moment that a commission should issue to Corea to examine one person it would not be very much more

trouble to examine two persons at the same time, and as regarded the question of expense as the defendants would send a representative to cross-examine Mr. Jordan no additional expense would be incurred in cross-examining Mrs. Joly at the same time. With regard to Mr. McNeill's references to the unsuitability of the Vice-Consul at Chemulpo to sit as Commissioner he could only express surprise that they should have been made.

His Lordship said that the arguments for and against the issuance of the commission had been so carefully and elaborately put before him, and the authorities quoted so clearly, that it would be no use for him to delay that with regard to which he felt no doubt. He thought that for the balance of convenience the commission should issue because he thought it was quite plain that in the case of Mr. Jordan it must be, so and it would be useless to refuse the other when the same commission would do. The question of who should be the commissioner would be dealt with at a later stage. The nature of the commission would be the same as issued in the two former cases, by *visu voce* interrogatories and cross-interrogatories, with opportunity to the parties to have someone present to cross-examine the witnesses if they should think it necessary. He thought he might say with regard to the examination before the Vice-Consul at Chemulpo that whatever difficulties might be in the way he was bound to be the officer. He did not think because he happened to be the successor to Mr. Joly that it formed any ground for excluding him. The Vice-Consul was the most obvious person to take the depositions, and he could not see that there was any reason to exclude him. He should grant the commission in the terms in which it was applied for and the costs of the commission would be at the discretion of the Court at the trial.

H.B.M.'s POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 26th April.

Before E. H. BURROWS, Esq.,
Police Magistrate.

R. v. GANAUCOPULOS.

Andrew Ganaucopulos, the Greek quarter-master remanded the previous week on a charge of feloniously cutting and wounding two British seamen from H.M.S. *Bonaventure*, was again brought, and the evidence of the wounded men taken.

Alfred Thomas Cornell was called, and said he was an able seaman on board H.M.S. *Bonaventure*. On the evening of the 18th April, he was in the Globe Hotel on the Yangkingpang with a number of his comrades, when suddenly the door flew open and he heard squabbling outside, and a girl shouted out that her mother had been hit with an umbrella. He went out and saw the prisoner making a disturbance with a woman. He caught hold of him and pushed him away a few paces. He then let him go and returned to the bar. Shortly afterwards he saw prisoner fighting with a bluejacket, and he went between them and tried to part them, when prisoner stabbed him in the shoulder. He then rushed on the prisoner and was stabbed a second time. Prisoner ran away and he ran after him a short distance, but could go no further and fell down.

By the Prisoner: He did not knock the accused down, but merely caught hold of him by the arm.

Percy George Potter, also a bluejacket, next gave evidence and spoke to being in company with the last witness and numerous others in the Globe Hotel. He saw the disturbance going on between the prisoner and others. He saw the prisoner trying to strike him with an umbrella, whereupon he took the umbrella

from him. Prisoner then rushed on him and hit him in the side. Witness struck prisoner in the face, and he fell. He got up and ran away and witness chased him into the Columbia Hotel and went upstairs after him, but could not find him. While in the Columbia he found that he also had been stabbed in the breast. The landlord stopped the bleeding with tobacco, and both he and Cornell were taken to the Hospital, where they were detained.

Prisoner, after being cautioned in the usual way, said he desired to make a statement. He said that he was passing outside the Globe Hotel on the evening in question, when a woman standing at the door greeted him in the most offensive manner. The woman said she was not afraid of him, and he replied that he did not wish to have anything to say to her, whereupon she shouted out something in a language he did not understand, and a number of sailors rushed out upon him. He was knocked down by one of them, and in the struggle he lost his hat and umbrella. He called out for help, but none was forthcoming. Coming in for further ill-treatment, he drew his knife in self-defence. After going to a chemist and having his own injuries attended to, he went to the Police Station and gave himself up. At the police station he recovered his hat, but his umbrella, which cost him \$5, he had lost.

His Worship then committed him to take his trial at the next criminal sitting of the Supreme Court.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL v. HOOSEIN.

Hoosein, a native of Surat, appeared to answer a summons issued at the instance of the Municipal Police for that he did at various dates in April, 1899, under cover of his office as warden of the Municipal Gaol, Amoy Road, obtain from one Si Ah-kun, a convict undergoing imprisonment in the said gaol, money and jewellery to the value of \$15.

Captain D. Mackenzie, Deputy Superintendent of Police, prosecuted.

Abdul Rahman, sergeant warden of the Municipal Gaol, said that on Saturday last he found a paper in Chinese on the mantelpiece in his room, and afterwards a piece of paper was given to him by the Chinese convict. The latter told witness that he had given a ring, a watch, and \$10 to the defendant, and also offered to give witness \$20 and a watch, and had given him the paper, on which he wrote something in Chinese, which he was to take to the prisoner's people, and he would get the watch and money. The convict wrote the Chinese directions in his presence, and, having found the paper on the mantelpiece, he asked the convict if he had written that also. He replied in the affirmative, and witness reported the matter to Mr. Mears the gaoler. The defendant and witness occupied the same barrack-room.

Si Ah-kung, the convict referred to, was called and duly cautioned. He stated that the defendant first asked him for two dollars. He replied that he had no means of raising it, whereupon Hoosein said "You must have relations and friends; think it over." Witness then wrote a letter to a certain brothel-keeper and got the two dollars. Hoosein afterwards demanded three dollars, on a third occasion four dollars and seventy cents, and a fourth time demanded a watch, all of which he received. The watch and chain produced he identified as what prisoner had extorted; the papers produced were in his writing and were in respect of the defendant's demand.

Mr. Mears, gaoler, spoke to finding the watch and chain (produced) in the possession of the accused.

Tsu Ah-ching said the defendant came to her house with a paper and got three dollars. He came again and the watch and chain she handed to him on the strength of a paper he showed her. She yielded

possession, because Hoosein told her they were wanted by the convict in the gaol. The watch belonged to him and it had been deposited with her for safe custody by his concubine. She identified the watch in Court. Nobody was present with her when she handed over the things.

Captain Mackenzie at this stage applied for a remand for two days, in order to enable the Police to trace the real ownership of the watch and chain.

His Worship remanded the defendant in custody until 10 o'clock on Friday.

28th April.

Hoosein, the Indian warden at the Municipal gaol, charged with obtaining money and a watch from a Chinese convict under cover of his office, was brought up on an adjourned summons in custody.

Mr. E. Nelson defended.

Mr. Mears, the chief gaoler, was recalled by Captain Mackenzie and stated that the convict Si Ah-kun was admitted on the 1st of April. He had not been out of the gaol since, except to go to the Central Police Station and the Court in connection with this case, nor had anybody been to see him. In reply to His Worship he said that, supposing the charge was true, it was within the power of the defendant to confer certain advantages on the convict, in exchange for a bribe. For instance, he could give him extra food, tobacco, sweets, cakes, etc., but otherwise he could extend no favour. There were two other prisoners in the same cell, but he could give the convict these things without anybody seeing him. The only evidence he had that such favours were conferred was from the statements of the convict himself.

Sing Ah-tau, a young girl, was called and spoke to having lived with the convict for twenty days before his committal. The watch and chain in question she found under the pillow after he went to gaol and she took it to her aunt (the woman who gave evidence at the previous hearing) for safe keeping. She did not examine it very particularly, for she was afraid her mother would see it and beat her. Her aunt afterwards told her that a coloured man had taken it away after showing her a paper which stated that it was to be handed over with the authority of the convict.

Mr. Nelson for the defence characterised the matter as one of the most ingenious attempts at theft on the part of the convict that had ever come within his experience. The accused had a watch and chain sent him by his wife from Kiukiang by the steward of the steamer *Tahung*. The watch and chain he was now charged with extorting were the identical watch and chain, and he (Mr. Nelson) was in a position to call witnesses to identify the same. The chain as produced in Court was broken, but at the end originally depended a small compass, and this he was able to exhibit in Court with a small piece of chain attached and prove that it corresponded with the broken chain taken with the watch from the pockets of the defendant. The convict had conceived the brilliant idea of planting these papers containing the allegations of extortion and in some way gaining communication with his friends outside.

The prisoner went into the box and was duly cautioned. He denied ever having had any conversation with the convict on the subject of the money, neither had he at any time given him any extra food or shown him the slightest favour. The woman Tsu Ah-ching could not identify him as the man to whom she had deposited to having handed over the watch when at the gaol, but when brought before Captain Mackenzie she did point him out as the man who brought the paper to her house. The watch was sent to him by his wife, a Chinese at Kiukiang, and the convict might have seen it on his person and thus been able to describe it in the way he had. In reply to Captain Mackenzie

—The convict would see him in the gaol in uniform with his tunic buttoned up. The watch and chain he carried in his waistcoat, and the convict might have seen him open his tunic to look at the time.

Abdul Rahin, brother-in-law of the accused, spoke to the steward of the *Tatung* coming to his shop on the Yangkingpang with a watch and chain, a small compass and a mosquito net sent from Kiukiang to the accused. He received them at five o'clock in the evening and delivered them to the defendant three hours later. The watch and chain produced he identified as the same the steward brought to him. As a further proof of recognition he pointed to two Chinese characters on the inside of the case (怡樟) which he noted at the time.

At this stage the further hearing of the case was adjourned till Saturday morning when the steward of the *Tatung* (which arrived on Friday afternoon) would be able to attend and give evidence.

29th April.

COUNCIL v. W. B. JAMIESON.

W. B. Jamieson was charged by Inspector Matheson with having two dogs unmuzzled at large on the Bund on the 25th instant.

Defendant stated he took his dogs that morning for a walk and let them loose opposite the Shanghai Club in order to give them a spell of liberty thinking that he was at that place out of the jurisdiction of the Municipal Council, and further said a caution would suffice him.

Mr. Morgan Phillips corroborated defendant.

His Lordship dismissed the case.

STUBBE AND WENTZENSEN v. J. D. VAUGHAN.

J. D. Vaughan was charged with misappropriating goods belonging to Messrs. Stubbe and Wentzensen valued at \$100, while in their employ; also with obtaining goods from others in the firm's name.

John Wentzensen stated that defendant had been in their employ as a town traveler for two months in selling goods and had only accounted for part of some goods sold. Towards the end of the second month defendant failed to appear at the office, he was told to do so but never turned up. On the 25th of February, witness wrote him a letter giving him three days' grace, but defendant never answered it. The Gas Company presented a bill to witness for goods which defendant had bought in the firm's name.

Witness had neither ordered nor received these goods. Defendant had also represented that certain goods had been sold, but witness had found that they had not been sold.

Defendant stated that the goods had been duly sold to an employé of the Gas Company who denied it because he did not wish the Gas Company to know of the matter.

Inspector Ramsey said that it was necessary to call another witness. Defendant had been arrested on a warrant, and not on the information of the police.

Complainant said that he had only had notice that morning that the case was coming on and wished for time to prepare his case.

The case was remanded by his Worship to next Monday week.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL v. HOOSSEN.

This case was again brought before the Court, and Mr. Nelson, who appeared for the defendant, called Tsze Tsze-lay who stated he was employed as a steward on board the *Tatung*. Before he came here on the 17th of April a Chinese woman in Kiukiang gave him a watch and a mosquito curtain to give to defendant's brother-in-law. He handed over the watch and told the party to go on board the *Tatung* for the curtain. A compass was attached to the chain of the watch. He wrote his name on the piece of paper in Chinese and English and gave it to

defendant's brother-in-law. He recognised the paper produced and the watch and compass. He had not seen defendant until just then. Convict No. 103 said that he shared the same cell as Convict 102; the latter one day brought some cakes into the cell, which were partaken of by themselves. Witness questioned No. 102 where he had obtained them and he replied that defendant had given them to him. As another instance of the warden favouring Convict No. 102 witness stated that Convict 102 had had vegetables with his congee on several occasions.

His Worship said that as he considered that the evidence had established a *prima facie* case, he would commit the defendant for trial.

U.S. CONSULAR COURT.

Shanghai, 24th April.

Before JOHN GOODNOW Esq., Consul-General, Acting Judicially, and the Rev. Dr. HYKES and Mr. C. C. BENNETT, Associates.

KOEHLER v. LEVEY.

This was a suit by Mr. Frederick Koehler against Mr. S. J. Levey for the repayment of a sum of Tls. 1,000 alleged to have been advanced at Tientsin by the former to the latter on the 7th of February last. Mr. H. P. Wilkinson appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. Nelson (Messrs. Stokes and Platt) for the defendant.

According to the evidence of the plaintiff he was employed by Messrs. Spitzel & Co. to keep their books in Tientsin, acting also as a skin buyer. Early in the year, there was a favourable opportunity for purchasing skins for cash and he wired down to Mr. Sturman, who was in Shanghai, asking for a remittance of Tls. 8,000. He received the money and paid Tls. 7,000 for the skins, and handed Tls. 1,000 to Mr. Levey, who was manager of Spitzel & Co. in Tientsin, on the understanding that it would be repaid from the proceeds of certain watches. Witness entered the amount in some rough accounts of Spitzel & Co. as a credit to Mr. Sturman. The money was advanced to Mr. Levey in connection with the business.

His Honour, after looking at the accounts said that from that, and also according to the plaintiff's own testimony, the money was not advanced to Mr. Levey as a personal loan, but on account of Spitzel & Co. or the Chinese Corporation.

Mr. Wilkinson said he could prove that Spitzel & Co. did not exist after the 1st of July, and that Mr. Levey had no authority to represent the Chinese Corporation.

Mr. Levey, being sworn, said he held a power of attorney from Mr. Spitzel, who was the Managing Director of the Chinese Corporation, after his firm was taken over by the latter concern.

His Honour eventually dismissed the case, with costs.

29th April.

Before JOHN GOODNOW, Esq.,
U.S. Consul-General.
(Sitting as Referee.)
DREW v. SYLVESTER.

In this matter Mr. Edward B. Drew, Commissioner of Customs at Canton (for whom Mr. H. P. Wilkinson appeared), petitioned for the recovery of Tls. 15,000 from the defendant, Mr. W. F. Sylvester, lately of the firm of Louis Spitzel & Co., of Shanghai, and elsewhere in China, alleged to be due on a bond. Mr. Platt appeared for the defence, Mr. Sylvester not being present.

In opening the proceedings His Honour said that this was a case originally before the U.S. Consulate at Canton and the petition was addressed to the U.S. Consul there and dated March 17th. He produced

a document from Mr. White, the U.S. Acting Consul, at Canton, referring the controversy to him and also an agreement signed by the parties authorising him to decide the issue.

Mr. Wilkinson then read the petition as follows:—

(Copy)

IN THE COURT OF THE U.S. CONSULATE, CANTON, CHINA.

Edward B. Drew, Petitioner and W. F. Sylvester, Defendant, To A. H. White, Deputy Consul-General in charge at Canton, Acting Judicially.

The Petition of the above-named Petitioner shows:—

1.—That he is a citizen of the United States and Commissioner of the Imperial Maritime Customs, at Canton, China.

2.—That the defendant is an American citizen.

3.—The defendant by his Bond, bearing date the 25th day of August 1895, became bound to the petitioner in the sum of fifteen thousand *kuping* taels of good and lawful sycee silver, to be paid by the defendant to the petitioner subject to a condition thereunder written, whereby, after reciting that the defendant had that day applied for a Customs permit to ship 500 Mauser rifles, and 500,000 Mauser cartridges by the American steamer *Abbey* then lying at the port of Canton in China, and had undertaken that the rifles and cartridges aforesaid should without delay after shipment be conveyed on board the steamer *Abbey* direct to the port of Singapore, and to no other place, and that the defendant would produce before the petitioner at Canton within six weeks from the date of the now reciting bond, from the Consul of the United States at Singapore, official proof that the arms and cartridges aforesaid had been duly conveyed in the steamer aforesaid to Singapore. And after reciting that the petitioner had granted and issued to the defendant the permit to ship as aforesaid, the condition of the said Bond was declared to be that if the defendant should by himself or by his agent produce and deliver to the petitioner, within the period of six weeks, from the date of the now reciting bond, a certificate signed and sealed by the Consul of the United States at the port of Singapore, to the effect that the 500 rifles and 500,000 cartridges aforesaid had duly arrived on board the steamer *Abbey* at the port Singapore, then the said bond should be void, and otherwise should be, and remain in full force and virtue.

4.—The said rifles and cartridges were shipped on board the steamer *Abbey*, but the defendant (either by himself or his agent) has never produced before, or delivered to the petitioner any certificate signed or sealed by, or any proof from the United Consul at Singapore, and in fact the said rifles and cartridges were never conveyed to Singapore, but were conveyed to the island of Luzon or to one of the Philippine Islands.

5.—The petitioner has demanded payment of the said sum of fifteen thousand taels, which has become due under the Bond to the petitioner, from the defendant, but payment of the same has been withheld by the defendant.

Your petitioner therefore prays:

That judgment may be given against the defendant accordingly, with interest and costs, and that he may have such other and further relief, as to your Honourable Court may seem meet.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

(Sgd.) E. B. DREW,
Commissioner of Customs, Canton.

Subscribed and sworn to at
Canton on this 17th day of March,
1899, before me.

(Seal Sgd.) A. H. WHITE,
Deputy Consul-General
in charge at Canton, Acting Judicially.

To this petition the defendant made the following answer:—

1.—He admits paragraphs 1 and 2 of the petition.

2.—He admits that he executed the document referred to in paragraph 3, and craves leave to refer to the document itself for the precise terms and conditions thereof, but he denies that the said document was or ever had any binding effect on him, or that he is or ever was under any legal obligation whatever

by reason thereof. The said document was void *ab initio*.

3.—He denies each and all of the allegations alleged in paragraphs 4 and 5.

The defendant therefore prays that the petition be dismissed, the petitioner decreed to pay the costs, and that he may have such other or further relief as to the Court may seem meet and defendant will ever pray,

His Honour then produced the Bond which formed the ground of action which was admitted by Counsel on either side. It was in the following terms:—

Know all men by these presents that I, W. F. Sylvester of the firm of Louis Spitzel & Co., for and on behalf of myself, and of the said firm, am held and firmly bound unto Edward B. Drew, Esquire, Commissioner of Customs, at Canton, China, in the sum of fifteen thousand *kuping* taels of good and lawful sycee silver, to be paid to the said Edward B. Drew, his heirs, and successors for which payment to be well and truly made, I bind myself, and the said Louis Spitzel and Company, my and their heirs, executors, and administrators, and every of them, firmly by these presents. Sealed with my seal. Dated this twenty-fifth day of August, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

Whereas the above bounden W. F. Sylvester has this day applied for a Customs permit to ship five hundred Mauser rifles and five hundred thousand Mauser cartridges, by the American steamer *Abbey* now lying at the port of Canton in China, and has undertaken that the rifles and cartridges aforesaid shall without delay after shipment be conveyed on board the said steamer *Abbey* direct to the port of Singapore, and to no other place, and that he the said W. F. Sylvester will produce before the Commissioner of Customs at Canton within six weeks from the date of this Bond, from the Consul of the United States at Singapore, official proof that the arms and cartridges, aforesaid, have been duly conveyed in the steamer aforesaid to Singapore, and whereas the said Edward B. Drew, Commissioner of Customs at Canton, has granted the permit to ship as aforesaid. Now the condition of this obligation is such that if the above bounden W. F. Sylvester shall by himself or by his Agent produce and deliver to the Commissioner of Customs at Canton, China, within the period of six weeks from the date of this Bond, a certificate, signed and sealed by the Consul of the United States at the port of Singapore, to the effect that the five hundred rifles, and five hundred thousand cartridges aforesaid have duly arrived on board the steamer *Abbey* at the port of Singapore, then this obligation to be void; otherwise to be, and remain in full force and virtue.

(Sgd.) W. F. SYLVESTER,
Signed and sealed in the presence
of (this 25th day of August, 1898),
(Seal) (Sgd.) EDWARD BEDLOE,
U.S. Consul, Canton, China.
(To be continued.)

THE FIRE AT THE TAILOR'S.

At the Mixed Court on Wednesday morning before Mr. Weng (magistrate) and Mr. S. F. Myers (British assessor), Moh Kwei-too, tailor, surrendered to his bail of \$5,000 to answer to the charge of feloniously setting fire to his shop No. 334, Woohang Road, on the 22nd inst. with intent to obtain the insurance thereon. A basket of bamboo shavings soaked in kerosene and a four-gallon tin of kerosene found on the premises were brought into Court. Four servants in the employ of the defendant appeared to give evidence. Inspector Ramsay had charge of the prosecution and Mr. W. A. C. Platt (Stokes and Platt) appeared on behalf of the Imperial and Commercial Union Fire Insurance Companies. P. C. 36 was first called and stated that he first saw the fire at 4.30 on the morning of the 22nd inst., and that at the time he was in the Szechuen Road and from 200 to 300 yards distant, and was from two to three minutes getting to the scene. On arriving he discovered smoke issuing from the door of the accused's shop. He immediately broke into the premises and

tried to arouse the inmates, if any. He could hear nothing above the crackling of burning wood and could see nothing for the smoke. Examined by Mr. Myers, the constable stated that the door was barred on the inside by a wooden bar, that there was no blaze in the front room but that the flames were about to work through and that the smoke was too dense to allow him to look for inmates. He was quite satisfied there was no fire in the house at the rear, and that the fire bells rang about two minutes after his arrival. Mr. E. W. Sharpley, foreman of the *Mih-ho-loongs*, who was next asked to give evidence, said that he resided close by the scene of the fire and first heard the police-men's whistles; he did not take the time but was told by his people that it was at 4.30 as stated. He looked from his window and saw smoke issuing from the roof at the back of the shop, pointing out the spot on the plan of the buildings laid before the Court. Questioned by the Assessor he asserted that the smoke issued from the back of the store; that he went up the alleyway to look for a good place to play the hose and that at the time there was no fire in the house at the back; that had the hose arrived earlier the house at the rear (No. 172) would have been saved. The evidence as given was then interpreted to the Magistrate. Mr. L. J. Cubitt's evidence was next taken. He stated that he was the foreman of the Salvage Corps and corroborated the previous accounts of the fire. A pack of empty J. & P. Coats' cotton boxes, intended to represent part of stock, were brought into Court which Mr. Cubitt admitted having saved. In reply to Mr. Myers he stated that the prisoner's stock was of little value and that he had probably from 20 to 30 rolls of cloth on the premises, besides a quantity of very inferior soap, scent, etc., and, on being shown the plan, stated that he believed the fire originated on the spot marked by the police. The servants of the prisoner then underwent a searching examination which was conducted solely in Chinese, but from an interpreter engaged by the Insurance companies, we learn that they stated that at the time of the outbreak, they were sleeping in the middle room upstairs. They did not see any policeman, and were aroused by some-one knocking. They came down the stairs leading out into the alleyway and at the time there was no fire on their premises. On being asked why they did not assist the police in removing their chattels they said they were so confused they did not know where to run. The shavings, as in Court, were used for lighting the kitchen fire. They declared that the fire broke out in No. 172, Szechuen Road. In cross examination they contradicted themselves regarding the declaration that there was no fire on their premises when aroused. They also said that the prisoner slept out of the house the night of the fire and the two previous nights. This was afterwards contradicted by prisoner asserting that he only slept out the night in question and that he was in the habit of occasionally sleeping out for one night. The prisoner in his defence indignantly resented the charge of arson, declaring several times that he was incapable of committing so vile an act; that his house was foreign-built and how could a fire originate there? and that the kerosene in the shavings was owing to a leak in a lamp suspended from the ceiling. At the conclusion of the examination Inspector Ramsay informed the Court that a deputation of about a dozen of the leading tailors had waited on him on the Monday morning certifying that the prisoner was a man of high moral character, had a good business, and could have no motive for firing his premises. They also stated that they were willing to give any security for him. But on this Wednesday morning Messrs. Ching Fong and Chang Chow had called on behalf of the said deputation and

stated that they wished to retract all they had said, as they had since learnt that the prisoner was a man of bad character with numerous outstanding debts. The Magistrate finding the case proved said: "You cheating devil! you can't cheat me!" and thereupon declared the prisoner guilty. In summing up he stated that he wanted to be just in his dealing with so serious a charge and therefore reserved his judgment until Friday that he might consult with the Taotai.

At the Mixed Court on Friday morning before Mr. Weng (magistrate) and Mr. S. F. Myers (British assessor), Moh Kwei-too, tailor, who was tried and found guilty on the 26th inst. of feloniously setting fire to his shop, No. 334, Woohang Road, with intent to obtain the insurance thereon, was brought up for judgment.

On the prisoner kneeling at the bar, the magistrate said: "Moh Kwei-too, I have visited your shop and found everything as stated by the Police and others. I saw there a heap of bamboo shavings saturated with kerosene oil, and on that point I am confirmed in my suspicion that you are guilty of the charge of arson. You removed your family to Ningpo in the 2nd moon. Moreover, in a store like yours where business was transacted on so large a scale you ought to have on your premises at least ten or more people, but on the morning of the fire only three persons were found. At the back of your premises are three houses, and I have found that they are occupied by new tenants who are your friends. In the middle house I also found a quantity of bamboo shavings likewise saturated with oil. In your defence you stated that the fire originated in those premises, and I have examined them and found the ground floor in perfect condition and not burned at all. I have taken away some shavings from your house and, as they are now beside you, you can smell them."

Mr. T. R. Jernigan here interrupted the magistrate and asked leave to make a motion.

Mr. Myers—The case has already been tried twice, and the prisoner is found guilty; if Mr. Jernigan, on behalf of the prisoner, wishes to make any motion, he can appeal to a higher Court. We cannot allow any lawyer to come and interrupt the proceedings after the case has been decided. No precedent has been established for such a case.

Mr. Jernigan—I am sorry to interrupt the business of the Court, but the assertion of the British assessor is entirely uncalled for.

Mr. W. A. C. Platt (Stokes and Platt), representing the Imperial and Commercial Union Fire Insurance Companies, here stated that if Mr. Jernigan entered a motion he would object.

The magistrate then, through an interpreter, informed Mr. Jernigan that the case had been tried by him and the British Assessor on the previous Wednesday, and that they had found the prisoner guilty. Sentence was deferred till Saturday in order to communicate with the Taotai, and also to visit the scene of the fire.

Mr. Jernigan—I have nothing personally to do with the case, but I have been asked by a friend of the prisoner to put this motion on his behalf. My motion is this, to postpone the case until Monday; my reason is that I hope to bring fresh evidence to justify a reopening of the case.

The magistrate then sentenced the prisoner to one year's imprisonment in the new gaol with hard labour.

Mr. Myers hereupon informed Mr. Jernigan that if he were dissatisfied with the finding of the Court he could appeal to the Taotai.

Mr. Jernigan then intimated he would make the appeal.

MIXED COURT.

At the Mixed Court on Monday morning, 23rd ult., before Mr. Weng (magistrate) and Mr. S. F. Mayers (British assessor), Moh Kwei-too, tailor, late of 344 Woohang Road, was brought up on suspicion of feloniously setting fire to his shop with intent to obtain insurance thereon. Prisoner was released on bail of Tls. 5,000 and the case was remanded until Wednesday.—A well-known lottery-ticket hawk was charged with selling tickets of the Kiangnan Charity Association, contrary to Municipal regulations. Detective Sergeant Johnstone deposed to seeing prisoner offering the tickets to an employee of Messrs. Hall and Holtz, and thereon took him into custody. A number of Mexican and Canton Wei-sing tickets were also found on him. In reply to Mr. Mayers the detective stated that a proclamation had been issued some two months ago forbidding the hawking of these tickets and that prisoner had previously been warned. Prisoner was fined \$40.—A coolie employed by Messrs. Hall and Holtz to attend the bread-van was charged at the Mixed Court on Thursday with striking a European lady and was sentenced to seven days' cage.—On Friday morning before Mr. Weng (magistrate) and Mr. S. F. Mayers (British assessor), Mr. Geo. Sutherland charged his servant with leaving his employment without giving due notice, thereby causing him (complainant) a great deal of inconvenience at the China Mutual Shipping Company's office. Complainant stated that the accused was an employee in the company's office and that he made the charge on principle. A representative of Major Bros. said that the Chinese had entered his firm and had informed him he did not wish to remain with Mr. Sutherland as the latter was in the habit of cutting his wages. Accused was ordered by the Court to pay \$5 as wages to substitute, which sum was guaranteed by his present employer.—A youth was brought up for maliciously thrusting a stick between the spokes of a bicycle ridden by Mr. J. Bell, of 59 Wayside. Complainant stated that he was riding along the Yangtseepoo Road just about dusk when he saw three lads with sticks, one of whom deliberately thrust his into his (complainant's) wheel, thereby stripping six spokes thus causing the wooden tire to buckie. He said he did not wish the Court to be hard on the lad, that he simply wished him to be punished as a deterrent to others, and reminded the Court that had a lady been riding the machine the consequences might have been more serious. The boy was fined \$3 as compensation for damage to the machine.—Zing Ur-ching (24), a native of Foochow and a well-known character to the Police, was brought up on remand charged with having committed no less than eight burglaries between the 5th of Feb. and the 18th of April, amounting in value to \$760, \$270 of which have been recovered, and also with returning from deportation. Inspector Ramsay drew the attention of the Court to the fact that the prisoner was the most accomplished and notorious burglar and extortioner in the Settlement and that he had been in and out of gaol during the last five years. The Magistrate, who seemed to be in a humorous mood, asked the prisoner how he would like his punishment?—to which prisoner ventured no reply. He then informed the culprit that as he evidently was fond of Shanghai he would invite him to stay a little longer. Prisoner was then sentenced to two years' imprisonment.—A Hupeh man was also brought up charged with being concerned in the same burglaries. As it was proved that he was simply a disposer of the stolen goods, a sentence of three months' was imposed.

THEORY OF THE FLAMING SWORD.

"Ah, talk of blessings! What a blessing is digestion! To digest. Do you know what it means? It is to have the sun always shining and the shade always ready for you. It is to be met by smiles and greeted with kisses. It is to hear sweet sounds, to sleep with pleasant dreams, to be touched ever by gentle, soft, cool hands. It is to be in Paradise.

"There came a great indigestion upon the earth and it was called a deluge. All the evil comes from this. Macbeth could not sleep; it was the supper, not the murder. His wife talked and talked; it was the supper again. Milton had a bad digestion, and Carlyle must have had the worst digestion in the world. Ah! to digest is to be happy!"

There!—how does that strike you for a burst of eloquence? I quote from Trollope. If there is anything wrong about the theology you must hold him responsible. As for its physiology and pathology (pardon all these 'ologies') I can answer for the correctness of these two. And so can millions of people besides me. They speak of the curse of indigestion continually in every language; they groan and writhe under it in every land and climate.

"For many years," say one of this innumerable army of martyrs, "I was obliged to bear as best I could the torments of indigestion. My appetite was practically destroyed. I ate, of course, because one must eat or die! but after meals I had great pain at the chest and around the sides.

Sleep almost forsook my pillow and naturally I was tired and exhausted. Sometimes better and then worse, but never free from pain and illness. I lived on with little or no hope of getting well. It is hardly necessary to say that I had medical treatment, yet no real benefit resulted from it. Happily at this time Mother Seigel's Syrup was brought to my notice, and so strongly commended that I laid aside other medicines, which were doing me no good, and began using this one only.

"In a short time I realised a great improvement; food agreed with me and I gained strength. A little later—continuing to take the Syrup regularly as directed—the pains at the stomach, sides and chest wholly ceased, and I have not felt them since. My indigestion was cured at last, and I enjoy the blessing of health. My son, who suffered severely from rheumatism has been relieved by Mother Seigel's Syrup as by nothing else he ever tried. In gratitude I give you full permission to publish my letter should you desire." (Signed) (Mrs.) Ann Barker, Field Lane, Braughing, Ware, Herts, Oct. 7th, 1898.

It was a fortunate circumstance for Mrs. Sarah Gell, of Melchbourne, Bedfordshire, that one day she had a personal talk with Mr. Smith, the butcher at Rushden. He told the lady that in his opinion if she went on suffering from indigestion and asthma (one of its consequences) it would be because she neglected to use Mother Seigel's Syrup. "And," said Mr. Smith, "I speak from knowledge." She had been ill with this abominable ailment for many years, and had spent time and money in unavailing effort to obtain relief.

Acting on Mr. Smith's advice, Mrs. Gell began using this remedy at once, and tells the outcome in a letter of which we have room for the conclusion only:—

"I was better almost immediately, and was soon as well and healthy as one could wish to be. Now I keep 'Mother Seigel' in the house and it never fails to help us when needed for any passing complaint." (Signed) Sarah Gell, October 5th, 1898.

Judging from the force of his comment on the disease, I should say Mr. Trollope knew something about indigestion from experience. Most literary people do. To them, and to all other victims, I confidently commend the best remedy yet found—Mother Seigel's Syrup.

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Miscellaneous Intelligence.

BIRTH.

At No. 32, Szechuen Road, on the 30th of April, 1899, the wife of Wm. Abu, WHITE, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 28th of April, 1899, at the Imperial Russian Consulate, Shanghai, and afterwards at No. 5, Sassoon's Buildings, by the Rev. J. A. Sudka, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Linzer, J. HANDELMAN, of Nagasaki, Japan, to OLGA HAIMOVITCH, of Shanghai.

DEATHS.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 24th of April, 1899, JOHANNES EDWARD ELLESEN, aged 24 years.

At 184, Yuhang Road, Shanghai, on the 28th of April, 1899, MATTHEW JORDAN, aged 53 years, a native of Ireland (late of the Municipal Sanitary Department).

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 30th of April, 1899, of typhoid fever, CARL SCHULTZE, aged 24 years, a native of Germany, and late of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank.

The interment will take place from the Mortuary Chapel, Old Cemetery, at 11.30 a.m. to-morrow (Tuesday). Friends are invited to attend.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer		Wind.	Hygro-		Thermometer		Initials.
	9 A.M.	Attached		Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Max.	Min.	
Apr. 28	30.06	63.5	N.E.	2	82.0	58.0	45.5	C.
29	30.15	65.0	E.	2	84.5	58.0	49.0	B.C.
30	30.06	62.0	S.E.	2	82.0	58.0	69.0	O.
1	30.09	65.0	E.	3	85.0	57.0	71.0	B.
2	30.07	63.5	S.E.	3	83.5	62.5	74.0	O.
3	30.20	67.0	S.E.	1	80.5	61.0	71.0	B.C.
May 1	29.75	59.5	N.W.	2	83.5	67.5	64.0	D.

EXPLANATION.

Initials: -b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); -overcast (full); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm Force from 1. to 12, estimated.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Ballaarat*, for London—Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Hiller, child and infant. Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Dally, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Ark, Mr. and Mrs. Broonhall, Rev. and Mrs. Conens, child and infants, Mr. R. J. Macgowan, and Rev. C. H. Parsons. For Colombo—Mr. W. A. W. Cox. For Venice—Mrs. Hewett. For Penang—Mr. Evans James. For Singapore—Mr. C. McBain. For Hongkong—Lieut. R. Wray, R.M.L.I., Rev. F. Burden, Messrs. G. L. Gratton, F. T. Bennett, T. Moffat, and G. Hopkins.

Per str. *Victoria*, for Yokohama—Mr. W. Waniorek. For Tacoma—Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Locke, and Dr. J. A. Webster. For Portland—Mr. J. C. Epperly. For London—Captain and Mrs. J. W. Paterson, and Rev. Ernest Box.

Per str. *Indus*, for Nagasaki—H. E. M. de Martino, Messrs. S. Sugimoto, and Kawamura. For Kobe—Misses Ashton, Greg, and (2) Ravetta, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Marks, Messrs. Sum Len-hing, and Ou Yu-lai.

Per str. *Choyssang*, for Hongkong—Mr. D. McGregor.

Per str. *Doric*, for Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Hunter, Messrs. L. E. Etzel, W. A. Hadden, and Sakio Choh.

Per str. *Kingsford*, for Chefoo—Mr. Walz. For Tangku—Misses Derthoit, and King, Dr. and Mrs. Dodge, Dr. S. S. McFarlane, Messrs. W. E. King, J. R. Morse, Larrien, E. Marks, and A. Houeyers.

Per str. *Kiangyü*, for Chinkiang—Mrs. E. F. Tatrem, and Miss L. W. Price. For Nanking—H. E. Lo. For Hankow—Mr. A. Dyck.

Per str. *Haean*, for Tangku—Mr. J. M. Mussen.

Per str. *Haeshin*, for Pagoda Anchorage—Mr. C. A. MacAlum.

Per str. *Chungking*, for Chefoo—Mrs. Hons-ton.

Per str. *Chungking*, for Tientsin—Mr. D. Stewart. For Chefoo—Mr. Zetterholm.

Per str. *Haeshin*, for Pagoda Anchorage—Mr. Liu.

Per str. *Poyang*, for Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Davis and child, and Mr. R. S. Furlong.

Per str. *Pekin*, for Ningpo—Mrs. Sparkes.
 Per str. *Woosung* for Newchwang—Mr. E. Strehlneck.
 Per str. *Poyang*, for Hankow—Mr. N. M. Molchanoff.
 Per str. *Wuchang*, for Tientsin—Mr. Sawyer.
 Per str. *Hsinchi*, for Tientsin—Mr. Shu.
 Per str. *Kiangfoo*, for Hankow—Mr. Chou.
 Per str. *Lienshing*, for Tientsin—Mr. and Mrs. James Hart. For Chefoo—Mr. C. J. Macaulay.
 Per str. *Kiangfoo*, for Hankow—Messrs. J. Behrend, Gielen, Jorokoski, Vos ermaus, and Debru.
 Per str. *Hsinchi*, for Tangku—Mr. and Mrs. Mo.
 Per str. *Suivo*, for Chinkiang—Mr. Allen. For Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Pettibone, Mr. and Mrs. Pettibone, Mr. and Mrs. Cherkoff, Messrs. Crocker, Levinoff, Ngovitch, and Kaligan.
 Per str. *Tatung*, for Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. H. A. J. Macray, Messrs. R. Berg, S. Deacon, Beris, Vanderstegen, W. S. King, H. Schlee, W. L. Richards, J. S. Clark, Geo. Butler, H. Schmid.
 Per str. *Suivo*, for Tungchow—Mr. Thomas Etchells.
 Per str. *Hsiingyü*, for Tangku—H. E. Tsing and suite.
 Per str. *Wuchang*, for Tient'in—Mr. and Mrs. Tallien and child, and Mr. G. R. Barry.
 Per str. *Pekin*, for Ningpo—Mr. and Mrs. Inwood, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. E. Evans.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Indus*, from Marseilles—Misses Felisa Nicolas and Haas, Mr. and Mrs. Tailieu and child, Messrs. Morris, and Molchanoff. From Colombo—Messrs. Bons Dantz, Butler, de Jaroszinoki, Gicklen, Derbry, A. Sawyer, Wotermans, L. Petersen, Sternukers, Hernaucan, Van der Meurdenck, and W. King. From Port Said—Mr. Liteninoff. From Singapore—Messrs. Brinkworth, M. Davies and 2 children, and 5 Indians. From Saigon—Mr. and Mrs. Casalé, and Mr. Hun Dac. From Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. H. Hearson, Misses Soutar, Lambe, Mackinnon, Bavin, and Booth, Messrs. Sokia Choh, Soutar, N. King, Knai Nam-ching, J. Faulbarten, Nadai and servant, Goidl, L. Roza, K. Ho. Mure, Vallance, J. Harding.

Per str. *Doric*, from San Francisco, etc.—Mrs. C. N. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Macray, Rev. and Mrs. W. Drummond and 2 children, Rev. and Mrs. Jas. Carson, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Bunker, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Irvine, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. L. Wright, Mr., Mrs. and Misses (2) A. F. Cass, Miss Martin, Rev. C. H. Yatman, Dr. C. L. Gee Wo, Messrs. A. Campbell, W. A. Had-den, J. A. Pond, C. Berg, A. L. Hart, and L. W. Doney.

Per str. *Yamashiro Maru*, from Japan, etc.—Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Pettibone, Messrs. J. Handelman, J. Carter, B. Hempel Kremstone, Julius Beleneud, James S. Clark, T. Asabuki, Y. Sugitani, R. M. Liniger, and George C. W. Kerchpatrick.

Per str. *Fushun*, from Hongkong and Canton—Messrs. Gibson, and Sirenlich.

Per str. *Kwanglee*, from Hongkong—Mrs. Aquino and 2 daughters, Mrs. Chan, and Mr. Wong.

Per str. *Empress of India*, from Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Flag'er, Mrs. E. G. de Figueiredo, 5 children and governess, Mr. and Mrs. Dallas, Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave, Mrs. Martin, Misses Barwick, Alsop, F. C. Morse, and (2) Jackson, Messrs. Maragni, A. H. White, W. F. A. Warham, A. H. Kenneley, Granville Sharp, T. Jackson, Sr., T. Jackson, Jr., G. A. de Figueiredo and brother, Fredericks, Seantlebury, F. D. Brown, N. Moller, W. J. Burns, Sparke, T. Asada, B. Jacob, H. W. E. Manesty, T. Bunt, and S. Ba ton.

Per str. *Poyang*, from Hankow—Rev. and Mrs. Ingle, Rev. and Mrs. Krestensen, Messrs. Mateau, and Ragneh.

Per str. *Kingsing* from Tangku—Messrs. Campbell, Thalmon, Backhouse, Ouang, and Jadat.

Per str. *Fungshun*, from Amoy, Wenchow and Ningpo—Misses (3) Ayrton, McClatchie, Pink, and Faumer, Mrs. Hoag, Mrs. Slatt, Mrs. Kindblad, Consul and Master Ayrton.

Per str. *Chungking*, from Tientsin—Mr. E. B. Clarke, and Dr. Nye.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Mrs. Downie and children, and Father Rémy.

Per str. *Wuchang*, from Tangku and Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Clurkoff, Baron de Venck de Duerdop, Messrs. Somali, Jabback, Kaligin, Woollich, Nemlmann, Reen, Nakamura, Jakagi, Yamakawa, Zung, and Z. w.

Per str. *Kiangfoo*, from Hankow—Mrs. Sandstedt, Mrs. and Miss Park.

Per str. *Hsinchi*, from Tangku and Chefoo—Mr. Lagerhelm.

Per str. *Lienshing*, from Tangku and Chefoo—Mrs. Walker and maid, Messrs. Greigsen, Walker, and Rhoden.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, from Ningpo—Mr. Malherbe.

Per str. *Sual*, from Hankow—Rev. Victorin.

Per str. *Suivo*, from Hankow—Messrs. Walker, Schueherd, and Parr.

Per str. *Oigawa Maru*, from Hankow—Mr. Ogata.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Mrs. Sparke.

Per str. *Tatung*, from Hankow—Mrs. and Miss Weatherston, Major Radcliff, Messrs. Chance, and St-pharius, Reva. Morris, and Lobenstein.

Per str. *Taishun*, from Tangku—Count Otau, Messrs. Tchekawa, J. Kepaga Taruga, Honda Salroe, Asakura, and Takeda.

Per str. *Tungchow*, from Tangku and Chefoo—3 Sisters of Charity, Lieut. and Mrs. Key, Master Croad, Messrs. Bridge, Roreffart, and Yamaguchi.

Per str. *Kiangyung*, from Hankow—Messrs. Whitehouse, Pratt, Shewan, and Eltz.

Per str. *Chiyeun*, from Canton—Mrs. Lindeburgh.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Mr. A. Smith.

Per str. *Haeting*, from Newchwang and Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Michieloff, Colonel Basilewsky, Messrs. M. B. Rangel, Nuderlein, Rodionoff, Fraudt, Crampton, and Robertson.

Per str. *Yuenwo*, from Nanking—Mr. and Mrs. Holliday.

Per str. *Ells*, from Hankow—Mr. Child.

Per str. *Canton*, from Foochow—Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey and 2 children, Misses (2) Clarke, Messrs. Kingford, Lethbridge, and Schu.

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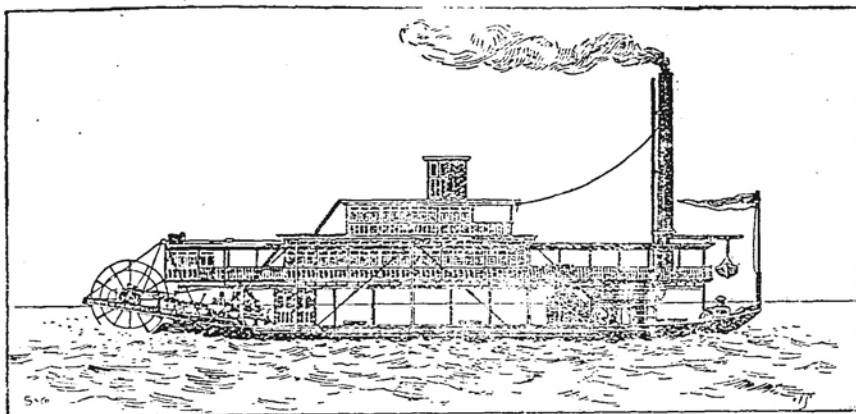
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27th March, 1899.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report of 29th April.)

PIECE GOODS.—The business of the past week has been small, particularly where **ENGLISH** makes are concerned, but the reason for this dullness must not be assigned to any apathy on the part of Chinese buyers as they have, in sympathy with Importers, been much upset by the sudden and pronounced advance in Exchange. No one seems to have been on the outlook or prepared for this advance and many different reasons are given for it, but there can be little doubt that the recent large purchases of Raw Silk, chiefly for forward delivery, have had much effect on local rates. Whether this has had much effect on outside markets it is difficult to say.

Sales during the period under review have again been confined largely to **AMERICAN** goods, and several thousands of bales of *Drills* and *Sheetings* have been sold for arrival next autumn, chiefly on a sterling basis. It is difficult to state any particulars of the sales, but it is pretty certain a good quantity has been done as recent advices from **NEW YORK** report a large business (in some quarters estimated at about 30,000 bales) for shipment during July, August and September at very full rates. Under these circumstances it can hardly be wondered at that the market is quoted very firm.

The market for **ENGLISH** goods is, as stated above, dull as far as actual sales are concerned, but still there is a good general feeling and with a more secure impression about the course of Exchange ruling in the near future a large business might have been done. As it is the **TRIESTINE** market is much better than it has been for some time, although dealers here are trying to make it appear lower than it actually is, while reports from **NEWCHWANG** are considered very favourable. There is nothing new to write about the **NINGPO** and **RIVER PORT** markets, the prospects for the coming season appearing to be as favourable as ever.

The advices from **MANCHESTER** report the market to be very firm with more enquiry, but business is still much restricted owing to the threatened approach of an operative's strike. The **LIVERPOOL** market is unchanged, Cotton being still quoted at 33d.

Grey Shirtings.—8-4-lbs.—Sales announced amount to about 20,000 pieces but the only quotations published are:—*Blue Stork* £1.62½, *Green Dragon* and *Fire Old Men* and *Blue Dragon* and *Two Spar* £2.22½ and *Gold Wildman* £2.25. Prices at Auction are as a rule, rather lower although here and there a few makes show small advances.

Light Weights.—7-lbs. are lower at Auction but 6-lbs. went rather better, the small lot sold showing an advance of nine candareens per piece.

Heavy Weights.—There are only two sales reported from first hands, amounting to 3,500 pieces, viz: *Pigs Head* £2.91 and *Auctioneer XXX* £3.47½. Prices are the earlier Auctions were much the same as last week but at the later one they were rather lower.

12-lbs. 36-in.—One sale of 3,000 pieces *Soldier DDD* at £3.51 comprises the week's business, while at Auction prices were rather irregular, but on the whole lower.

White Shirtings.—There is scarcely anything doing beyond the Auctions which show weaker prices with perhaps one or two exceptions. Privately the sales that reach us amount to 2,500 pieces, viz.: *Gold San Sin* £2.55, *Woman Phoenix* and *Flower AA* £3.39, *Gold Woman* and *Flower XX* £3.60, *Lion Chop* £3.65, and *Guardman CR* £3.80.

T-Cloths.—Not a single sale is reported in either make while auction prices are a shade lower.

Drills.—*English.*—A slight enquiry for these has led to the sale of 9,000 pieces as follows:—*Eagle and Fish* £2.54, *Blue Goat* and *Blue Stag* (Kuneping) £2.60 and *Blue Lion* £2.67½.

American.—A large business has again been done in these both from stock and for arrival, and sales amounting to 32,000 pieces have reached us, but we think a great many more have been done. Sales noted are: *Two Rabbits* £3.05, *Pepperell Dragon* £3.20 and *13.22½* and *Indian Head* £3.20.

Sheetings.—*English.*—No sales are reported this week from stock, and we have not heard of any more Indents having been booked.

American.—Transactions during the week have again been on a heavy scale, although only sales of 10,000 pieces are announced on the following basis:—£2.93 for *Tiger and Stag* and *Two Lion* and £3.00 for *Leopard*. Buying in **NEW YORK** has continued for this market at slightly higher rates.

Fancy Goods.—A fair business continues to be done in both *Prints* and *Fancies*, and we understand that for certain classes of goods the enquiry is decidedly brisk. A few indents for *Fast Black Rations* have again been booked.

Woollens.—We have not heard of any private business, although we believe the **RIVER PORT** merchants are beginning to make some enquiry for the goods. At Auction the tendency was lower for nearly everything, some special colour of camlets being the exception.

Cotton Yarn.—*Indian.*—The rise in sterling rates has naturally had considerable influence on the Yarn trade, more especially as it has come so suddenly and unexpectedly. Native holders are anxious to sell, but operators refrain from buying in anticipation of doing better later. So far the sales from first hands do not show a decline of more than half a tael but business is much restricted towards the close and a greater concession would doubtless have to be made to entice buyers. The total Settlements reported amount to 1,472 bales as follows:—

No. 10s., 455 bales.—*Kaisar-i-Hind* (new chop) and *Leopold* £50.00, *Hongkong Mill* £52.00, *Jubilee*, Mule £54, *Pabany Mill* £54.75, *Jacob Sassoon* £55.00, *James Greaves* £55.25, and *Tea Carrier* £55.50.

No. 12s., 145 bales.—*Kaisar-i-Hind* (new chop) £50.00, *Jamshed*, Mule £57 00, and *Pabany Mill* £58.00.

No. 16s., 241 bales.—*Western India* (Agawadi) £57.00, *Union Spinning* £58.50, *Anglo-Indian*, Mule £59.00, *Tea Carrier* £60.75, *Bombay Cotton*, Mule £61.75, and *Pabany Mill* £62.25/62.00.

No. 20s., 531 bales.—*Anglo-Indian*, Mule. *Empress Spinning*, *Indo-China* and *Imperial* £62.00, *Motilal* and *E. D. Sassoon* (Pagoda) £63.00, *Rijon*, Mule £63.75, *Jubilee*, Ring £64.00/63.75, *China Mill* and *Howard and Bullough* £64.00, and *Anglo-Indian*, Ring £64.20/64.00.

Japanese.—Total transactions this week amount to about 1,300 bales at steady prices, No. 16s. selling at from £62.25 to £63.50 at No. 20s. at from £64.25 to £65.50. There is a good demand for *TRIENSTIN* for the lower count and contracts have been made for 1,500 bales at £64.00/64.25 for shipment direct.

Local.—There is less enquiry and although the small business done does not show any change in prices so far the tendency will doubtless be to follow the course of the imported spinnings, which does not appear to have been quite determined yet. The sales reported total up 1,835 bales, as follows:—

		10s.	12s.	14s.	16s.
<i>Soy Chee</i>	800 bales.	£59.75/60.00	...	64.50	66.00 packed.
<i>Laou-king-moo</i>	100 "	...	...	65.52	...
<i>Yah Loong</i>	335 "	58.00	...	63.50	...
<i>Tah Sheng</i>	500 "	...	69.50	61.00	unpacked.
<i>Yu Yuen</i>	100 "	...	60.50	62.50	...

Bundles have been resold as follows:—No. 12s £59.00/60.50, 14s £60.00/62.50 and 16s £61.00/63.75.

Corros.—The price asked by holders is £14.00, but that fixed by the Association of Spinners is only £13.55 so that there is still a wide margin, although it is being gradually reduced.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—From Messrs. Alex. Biefeld & Co.'s Report of 1st May:—**METALS**.—Not much has been done during the past week, and what was done was at a low figure. The iron disposed of cannot be replaced at the price sold, owing to the Home quotations being 3/- higher. 400 tons of London Shoes were sold at 82s. 6d. to 83s. 6d., and 350 tons of Cart Tyres were sold at 106s. The market is very quiet locally, and the natives are naturally endeavouring to dispose of their holdings. They are not ordering any more as the stock does not require replenishing for at least two or three months.

In Australian LEAD 200 tons have been sold at £15, and locally in spot cargo business has been at £7 to £7.10 per picul.

In Sundries a fair business has been done, though the business is not brisk, the natives simply buying what necessity demands. We are able to record the following transactions:—400 cases Vienna Matches at £22; 50 cases Japanese Matches at £12; 550 cases Needles, 2/0, 3/0, 1/6 and 2/0, 3/0, 1/12 at £22½ to £25; 20 cases each dozen Joker Musical Clocks at £28 per case; 50 cases each dozen Joker Musical Clocks at £18 per case; 70 cases each 200 dozen Towels 28 x 14 at £0.37 to 0.33 per dozen; 1,000 cases Window Glass at £0.10/31; 2,000 cases Window Glass at private terms; 50 cases each 200 boxes Llama Braid No. 45 at £0.28 per box; 75 cases each 200 bottles Cryst Green at £0.10/11; 20 cases 100 gross Button, Gold and White at £30.50 per case; 40 cases 100 gross Button Gold and White at £24.75/28 50.

Opium.—Closing quotations:—Malwa (new) £325/535, (old) £580/650; Patna £630, (new) £618; Benares £634, (new) £618.

EXPORTS.

Silk.—From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular of 29th inst.:—

The Home markets are firm, Blue Elephants are quoted in London at 12/3, and Gold Kilings, have risen in Lyons to Fcs. 32.75.

RAW SILK.—The sharp advance in Exchange during the past week has put a stop to the large business that has been taking place for some time past in new season silk; still fully 1,000 bales have been taken, and Gold Kilings were done at Tls. 535. Total contracts for the new season to date we estimate now to be some 22,000 bales, of these 1,750/2,000 bales are Steam Filatures, 5,500/6,000 bales Hand Filatures, and 14,000 Tsatlees, Kahings, etc.

YELLOW SILK.—Market quiet, arrivals on a fair scale.

ARRIVALS, as per Customs Returns, April 22nd to 29th are: 326 bales White, 219 bales Yellow and 354 bales Wild Silk.

RE-REELS AND HAND FILATURES.—Some further contracts have been made for America and Lyons at prices which show an advance of some Tls. 10/15.

STEAM FILATURES.—Some further business is reported on the basis of Tls. 850 for good Market Chop No 1, 11/13 dernier.

The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 4,131 bales to France, 2,845 bales to America, and 153 bales to London.

WILD SILK.—Some 50 bales have changed hands.

WASTE SILK.—Nothing doing. Stocks are almost exhausted.

We append quotations in Taels only, this week, as Exchange has varied so.

Exchange 2/9½ a 2/9¾ and Fcs. 3.47 a 3.54. Freight Tls. 7.25 per bale.

NEW SILK:		Tls. per picul.		Tls. per picul.
TSATLEES.—Mountain 4	560	535	TATSAAM.—Gr. Kahing Cicada	535
	547½	530	" " Gold Goose 1	530
	565	515	" " Gr. Almond Flower 1	485
	555	490	" Wh. Kahing Gold Lion Ex.	470
	540	415	SKEINS.—Double Man 3	415
	535	850	STEAM FILATURE.—First Choice, 11/13	850
	510	830	" Second	830
	537½	680	HAND FILATURE.—Pegasus Croisee, 1, 2 & 3	680
	522½	660	" Bicycle (not Croisee) 1, 2 & 3	660
	530		OLD SILK:	
" Blue	510	240	WILD SILK.—Tussah Filature, 8 Cocoons	240
" Blue Phoenix				
" Three Pagodas				

* Many shipments are now sent optional, Marseilles or London.
Also 19 piculs Old Silk Wadding to London.
" 1,908 " " " " Continent.

For New York via Cape.—The *Sachem* is expected to clear to-day for Hongkong. This will leave the berth vacant for the moment, nothing having been fixed to take her place, though enquiries exist for a suitable ship.

For London via Suez.—	Nil.		
For New York via Suez.—	Catania s.s., via Amoy,	29th	ult.
For Taltal, Chili.—	Moel Tryvan, s.v., in ballast	21st	
	Carvadale s.v.,	22nd	"
	Brynhilda s.v.,	23rd	"
For Hiogo.—	Luzon s.v.,	29th	"

NEW YORK, by Sail.....	20/0			
Do. via Pacific	1 gold ct. per lb. Tea,—6 cts. per lb. Silk,—\$10.00 per ton Strawbraid.			
Do. via Suez	27/6 General Cargo. 10/0 extra for Turmeric. 27/6 Tea, all net.			
BOSTON	35/0	"	"	40/0 " "
PHILADELPHIA	35/0	"	"	40/0 " "

COAST RATES.

MOJI	TO SHANGHAI	\$2.00 per ton Coal.
NAGASAKI	"	" \$2.00 " "
NEWCHWANG	" KOBE	25 sen.
"	" NAGASAKI	20 "
"	" SWATOW	35 cents.
"	" AMOY	35 "
"	" WHAMPOA	38 "
"	" CANTON	38 "
WU LU	" CANTON	22 cands.
CHINKIANG	"	"
"	" AMOY	20 "
"	" SWATOW	20 "

Coals.—From Messrs Wheelock & Co.'s Report of 1st instant:—

COAL.—JAPAN.—Nothing of much importance, beyond a few sales for actual consumption, has taken place, Japan is offering a little more freely, but freights being so high very few orders are given, and as stocks here are still very large we anticipate a much weaker market.

CARDIFF.—Is without enquiry.

SYDNEY WOLLONGONG.—Business is confined to resales amongst natives at considerably above quotations, the market is very firm, and as there are no near arrivals we should see much higher prices.

Quotations:—The undernoted figures are based on the most recent settlements for cargoes to arrive and do not represent the present market rates for coals in stock, which fluctuate with the supply and demand:—

Cardiff, ex godown	Tls. 17.00 per ton, no demand.
American Anthracite, ex godown	" 15.00 " no stock.
Sydney Wollongong, steamer cargo ex godown	" 13.00 " sales.
Otzuji, ex godown	Tls. 6.50 @ 7.75 per ton.
Karatz, ex godown	
Ohmura, ex godown	
Komatzu "	
Hokoku "	
O.inoura 3 feet	All contracted for.
" 5 "	
Japan, Takasima Lump, ex godown	
" Small "	
Namazuta Lump, "	
" Dust "	
Miiké Lump, "	
" Small, ex godown	
Kaiping Coal: Linsi Lump	ex godown.....Tls. 7.00
" Linsi Mixed	" 5.60
" Tongshan No. 9 Lump	" 7.00
" " No. 9 Dust	" 5.60
" " No. 9 Mixed	" 6.50

Arrivals during the fortnight have been:—

April 14, <i>Hermes</i> , str.	2,140 tons	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers
" 16, <i>Hsiping</i> , str.	1,100 "	Linsi Mixed Coal, to consumers.
" 20, <i>Ningpo</i> , str.	2,300 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.
" 22, <i>Asosan Maru</i> , str.	1,748 "	Miiké Large and Dust Coal, to consumers.
" 23, <i>Fujisan Maru</i> , str.	2,034 "	Moji Large Coal, to consumers.
" 23, <i>Unity</i> , str.	1,826 "	Hougay Dust Coal, to consumers.
" 24, <i>Mikawa Maru</i> , str.	1,340 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.
" 24, <i>Atagosan Maru</i> , str.	1,958 "	Ichimura Large Coal, to consumers.
" 24, <i>Hokushin Maru</i> , str.	1,012 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 25, <i>Tamsut</i> , str.	1,870 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.
" 26, <i>Chingping</i> , str.	1,000 "	No. 9 Dust Coal, to consumers.
" 26, <i>Keelung Maru</i> , str.	1,700 "	Moji Coal, to native dealers.
" 27, <i>Kuran Maru</i> , str.	1,710 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 28, <i>Hsiping</i> , str.	1,200 "	Linsi Mixed Coal, to consumers.
" 28, <i>Szechuen</i> str.	2,290 "	Akaiki Dust Coal, to consumers.

KEROSINE OIL.—AMERICAN.—There has been very little business done at much lower rates, we believe sales have been made at Tls. 1.61½ per case, but in small quantities. The *Pharos* and *Luxon* arrived on the 17th ultimo bringing in all 100,000 cases, and the *Durbridge* on the 20th ultimo with 85,000 cases, these arrivals we include in our stocks, which now amount to 697,625 cases.

BATOURM.—Nothing much has been done with the exception of a few sales of Anchor Brand at Tls. 1.52 per case, the market is anything but firm. The *Saint Mary* arrived on the 20th ult., thus increasing Stocks to 263,000 cases.

LANGKAT.—No market. Stock, including the arrival of the *St. Helens* on the 24th ultimo, with the equivalent of about 100,000 cases, amounts to 105,000 cases.

Quotations—Devoc's	Tls. 1.62 per case.
Batoum, Anchor Chop	" 1.52 "
" Horse Chop	" no stock. "
Star and Crescent Chop	" 1.50 "
Batoum, Bulk Oil cased locally	" no stock.
" "	" 1.56 clean, per two tins.
Langkat	" 1.50, no market.
" in cases	" no stock.
" at the Tanks	" 0.13 per gallon.

Exchange.—(Closing Rates)—On London—Telegraphic Transfers, 2s. 9½d. Banks Bills, 2s. 9½d. Banks Bills, 4 months' sight 2s. 9½d. First-Class Credits to Banks, 4 months' sight, 2s. 9½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 9½d.; Private and Documentary 4 months' sight, 2s. 9½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 9½d. On France—Bank Bills, Transfer Fcs. 3.46½. Credits and Documentary Bills 4 months' sight, 3.52, 6 months' sight, 3.53. On Germany—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, Marks 2.81, lowest 2.81½, highest 2.81. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, per \$100 G.\$68½, lowest 67½, highest 68½. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, 72½, lowest 73, highest 73½ per \$100. Private Bills, 3 days' sight, 72, lowest 72½, highest 72. On Yokohama—Telegraphic Transfers, ¥75½, lowest 76½, highest 75½ per Yen 100. Private Bills, 15 days' sight, ¥74½, lowest 75½, highest 74½. On Bombay and Calcutta—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 206½, lowest 203, highest 206½ per £100. Bank Bills, demand, Rs. 207, lowest 203½, highest 207. Bullion—Gold Bars, Shanghai, 98 touch, ¥355.00, lowest 354 00, highest 358.00, Silver Bars, £111.15, lowest 111.10, highest 111.20. Mexican dollars, ¥73.975, lowest 73 875, highest 74.20. Carolus dollars, ¥92.00, lowest 91.00, highest 93.00. Copper Cash 1,180, lowest 1,170, highest 1,190. Chinese Interest, mace 0.8, lowest 0.5, highest 1.8. Bar Silver in London, per oz. 28½, lowest 27½, highest 29½.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.

(From Messrs. Morriss & Robertson's Circular.)

	Bar Silver per oz in London.	ON LONDON.								FRANCE.		GER- MANY.	NEW YORK.	HONG- KONG.	YOKO- HAMA.	INDIA.
		T/Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m/s.		Francs 4 m/s. and 6 do.		4 m/s. Priv.	Docty. 4 m/s.		T/T	T/T Rup.
April.		Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.					
25th	27 1/2	2.8 1/2	2.8 3/4	2.8 1/2	2.8 3/4	2.9	2.9	2.9 1/2	2.9 1/2	3.46 1/2/47 1/2	3.47/3.48	2.8 1/2	67 1/2	73	76 1/2	203
26th	27 3/4	2.8 1/2	2.8 3/4	2.8 1/2	2.9	2.9 1/2	2.9 3/4	2.9 1/2	2.9 1/2	3.49 1/2/50 1/2	3.50/3.51	2.8 3/4	68	73	75 1/2	205
27th	28 1/4	2.8 1/2	2.8 3/4	2.8 1/2	2.9	2.9 1/2	2.9 3/4	2.9 1/2	2.9 1/2	3.49 1/2/50 1/2	3.50/3.51	2.8 3/4	68	72 1/2	75 1/2	205 1/2
28th	28 1/2	2.8 1/2	2.9 1/4	2.9	2.9 1/2	2.9 1/2	2.9 3/4	2.9 1/2	2.9 1/2	3.50 1/2/51 1/2	3.51 1/2/52 1/2	2.85	68 1/2	72 1/2	75 1/2	205 1/2
29th	28 3/4	2.9	2.9 1/2	2.9 1/2	2.9 3/4	2.9 1/2	2.9 3/4	2.9 1/2	2.9 1/2	3.52 1/2/53 1/2	3.53/3.54	2.86	68 1/2	72 1/2	75 1/2	206 1/2
1st May.	28 3/4	2.9	2.9 1/2	2.9 1/2	2.9 3/4	2.9 1/2	2.9 3/4	2.9 1/2	2.9 1/2	3.52/3.53	3.53/3.54	2.86	68 1/2	72 1/2	75 1/2	206 1/2

Shares.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report of 1st May:—

The business of the week has been fairly brisk. *Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf* shares have continued in demand for cash and time sales, while *Mill* stocks are recovering from last week's depression.

BANKS.—*Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.*—Early in the week a sale of 265% prem. took place; later the rate rose to 268% prem. Cash sales at Hongkong at 270% prem. were reported on the 27th and at Shanghai a sale was put through at the same figure on the 29th, while the market closes at this rate. Hongkong rate to-day is 272% prem. (buyers). Shares are quoted in London at £58.17.6 sterling.

MARINE INSURANCE.—*Yungtze Insurance Association, Ltd.*—A dividend of 10% or \$6 per share on the paid-up capital was declared on the 26th April.

FIRE INSURANCE.—*China Fires* changed hands at \$82.

SHIPPING.—*Indo-Chinas* were done at \$51.75 for 31st May on the 25th April, at \$51 and \$51.50 for 30th April on the 26th April. Shares are offering at a point or two higher for cash. They are quoted in Hongkong at \$70. *China Mutuals*, Preference shares, changed hands at \$72, and the *Ordinarys* at \$50.

SUGARS.—A small lot of *Peraks* were sold at \$47.50 and are wanted.

Mining.—*Rauks* were sold at \$57 to Hongkong. *Punjoms* were dealt in largely in Hongkong at \$7. *Sheridan Consolidated Mining & Milling Co., Ltd.*—The Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for 1898 have been published. The meeting of Shareholders was took place on the 27th inst. There is a net loss of \$10,990.68 on the year's working. This increases the balances of debit of Profit and Loss to \$165,500.30.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Shares in *Boyd & Co.* were taken up at \$200. *S. C. Farnham & Co.*—Early in the week shares were quoted at \$182.50, later the market rose to \$185, \$187, and \$187.50 cash, and \$190 for June. *Engineering & Dock* shares were put through at \$90 cash and \$95 for August. Business in *Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf* shares has been brisk, several cash sales at \$165 are reported, and the following time sales: \$170 and \$172.50 for June, \$175 for July, \$175 and \$177.50 for August and \$182.50 for November; while two or three settlements at \$200 for March next have been put through. *Hongkong & Whampoa Docks* changed hands at 325% prem. and later at 328% premium, shares being sold to Hongkong in both cases.

LANDS AND BUILDING stocks have been at a standstill.

INDUSTRIAL.—*Ewo Cotton Mills* changed hands at \$65 and \$70 and are wanted. A first call of \$25 per share on 5,000 shares new issue of this Company was made on 29th April. *Internationals* found sellers at \$65; a rapid rise later brought the market up to \$75. *Laou-kung-mo* changed hands at \$70. *Soy Chees* sold at \$350 and are offering. *China Flour Mill's* were dealt in at \$40, and *Feather Cleaning Co.* shares are offering.

TUG AND CARGO BOATS.—*Shanghai Tug Boat* shares were done at \$230.

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Gas Company* shares fetched \$190. *Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco Company.*—A notification, by order of the Directors, dated 24th April, stipulates for payment on or before 15th May of all unpaid calls due on 15th June and 15th November, 1898, together with interest, until penalty of forfeiture of shares for non-payment. Shares were quoted at \$80 Old at the beginning of the week, they fetched \$82.50 later and the market closed with sales at \$85 and \$90 cash. New shares found sellers at \$65. *Sumatra Tobacco* shares were dealt in at \$62. *Llewellyns* sold for \$61, *Hall & Holtz* at \$36, and *Central Stores* at \$11, with sellers offering. The *American Cigarette Co.*—A new issue of 1,500 shares of \$50 each, paid up in full, has been made and nearly all have been taken up. It is intended to apply this increase of the capital (\$75,000) to improvements in machinery and increase of stock.

LOANS.—*Chinese Government E Loan Bonds* found buyers at current rate of \$250 and usual terms.

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Return on Inv. allowing for Amortization.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1890	\$20,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$100	6%	June & Dec.	(g) 5.87%	nom.
Do. 1891	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$100	5 1/2%	Do.	(g) 5.96%	\$97.50
Do. 1892	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$100	5%	Do.	(a) 6.16%	\$102.00
Do. 1893	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$100	5 1/2%	1 st Oct.	(g) 5.50%	\$100.00
Do. 1894	\$105,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$100	5%	Do.	(g) 5.90%	\$100.00
Do. 1895	\$115,000.00	\$115,000.00	\$100	5%	Do.	(g) 6.05%	\$90.00
Do. 1896	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$100	5%	Do.	(g) 5.96%	\$90.00
Do. 1897	\$268,000.00	\$268,000.00	\$100	5%	Do.	(g) 5.93%	\$90.00
Do. 1898	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$100	5%	Do.	(g) 5.91%	\$101.00
Cyren Theatre Debentures	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$25	4%	(l) 31 Dec. 1899	...	\$16.00
Chinese Imp. Government Loan 1886 E	\$635,700.00	\$680,104.00	\$250	7%	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 7.00%	\$250.00
Shanghai Land Inv. Co. Debentures 1890	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	6%	May & Nov.	(g) 5.75%	\$102.00
Do. Do. 1892	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	5 1/2%	June & Dec.	(g) 6.05%	\$95.00
Do. Do. 1894	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	4%	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.90%	\$101.00
Do. Do. 1896	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	5%	June & Dec.	(g) 5.98%	\$90.00
Shanghai Waterworks Co. Debentures '94	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100	6%	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 6.00%	\$100.00
Do. '96	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100	5%	June & Dec.	(g) 5.46%	\$95.00
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co. "	\$400,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100	6%	June & Dec.	(g) 5.88%	\$100.00
Perak Sugar C. Co. Debentures 1896..	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100	7%	June & Dec.	(g) 7.00%	\$100.00
Shanghai Gas Co. " 1897..	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100	5%	April & Oct.	(g) 5.90%	\$90.00

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 28th April, 1899, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 91 to 96 both numbers inclusive.

IMPORTS AND DELIVERIES.

GOODS.	Ningpo.	Wanchow.	Shanghai.	Wuhu.	Kiukiang.	Hankow.	Ichang & Chungking.	Chien.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Foochow.	Hongkong.	Japan.	Szechow & Hangchow.	Canton.	Wadinstock.	Locat.	Sundries.
Grey Shirtings	7,595	...	15,615	3,680	9,030	38,005	2170	4,955	17,365	6,090	325	...	1730	...	1,250	6030	11,000	490
T-Cloths, 32-in.	1,200	...	2,270	580	1,350	2,500	...	1,685	3,115	435	4265	...	...	...	...	1570	1,200	...
" 36-in.	550	...	...	50	250	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	600	60
" Indian, 32 & 36-in.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	...	...	...	...	80	400	...
White Shirtings	650	...	2,180	2,360	3,068	16,163	550	1,100	17,505	2,150	120	...	...	...	...	230	4229	4,000
Drills, English & Indian	...	...	84	...	...	120	900	258	360	565	120	...	...	...	...	4838	600	2099
" Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,700	12,705	60	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
" American	420	...	795	60	135	1,875	...	1,590	4,430	160	...	...	...	...	...	1365	900	...
Jeans, English & Indian	...	...	300	...	50	...	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	30
" Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	900	1,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
" American	...	...	120	...	60	...	...	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	200
Sheetings, English	220	...	3,200	2,610	2,900	3,360	900	200	1,678	3,380	...	...	...	...	...	3140	800	...
" Indian	...	...	...	180	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
" American	1,900	...	40	40	1,120	...	...	1,740	55,475	53,215	...	...	...	...	...	1025	1,200	...
Dyed Shirtings	...	...	400	...	40	...	...	40	850	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	370	300
Bro. & Sp. Shirts, D. & W.	...	...	...	...	50	...	...	...	50	50	...	...	...	...	...	100	250	...
Chintzes	60	...	780	94	60	839	...	10	410	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	250	...
Printed T-Cloths	350	...	2,082	1,073	925	2,168	...	1,150	7,408	710	237	...	...	...	...	60	30	600
Printed Twills	110	...	363	...	390	1,950	...	300	...	610	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	300
Turkey Red Shirtings	125	...	450	260	155	890	...	325	280	460	230	...	...	...	...	25	250	85
Velvets	...	...	138	...	84	30	...	...	...	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Velveteens	...	...	...	...	48	...	...	...	...	126	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...
Handkerchiefs	200	...	2,400	500	1,050	2,493	...	200	590	5,720	200	...	...	...	...	...	3,000	...
Muslins	200	...	300	...	...	400	...	500	2,197	400	100	...	...	...	...	200	600	400
Lenos & Balzamines	...	...	...	...	81	...	...	...	197	480	160	...	...	...	...	100	240	300
Cotton Yarn, Indian	...	...	2,649	789	1,166	16,176	5886	330	933	5,391	60	300	...	...	...	18	3	600
" English	...	...	3	...	60	420	...	33	60	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
" Japan	90	...	126	717	1,542	5,981	225	111	225	375	87	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
" Shanghai	15	...	117	69	1,383	9,003	495	90	153	1,467	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spanish Stripes, Woollen	84	...	162	12	114	192	...	6	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	...
" Cotton	...	...	48	...	36	48	...	150	192	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96	...
Medium & Broad Cloths	36	...	30	...	6	148	...	...	42	62	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	140
Camlets	60	...	70	40	40	160	...	...	180	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	140	...
Long Ella	...	...	70	80	50	380	160	120	220	220	...	...	...	...	...	20	120	...
Lastings	40	...	50	...	...	40	...	70	210	310	40	...	...	...	...	...	20	120
Italian Cloth	30	...	210	...	30	516	...	180	210	388	...	...	...	...	...	60	359	180
Cotton Lastings & Italian	390	...	1,846	542	1,549	7,246	400	1,782	7,029	1,204	...	...	...	...	...	80	2596	600
Plain & Figured Orleans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton Flannels	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
" Japan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead-in Figs	...	...	254	...	208	984	...	214	189	191	...	...	...	...	...	65	...	...
Iron-Nail Rod	399	...	504	17	97	29	...	189	357	718	...	...	...	...	...	185	...	...
Kerosene Oil, American	1,000	...	9,900	1,700	2,100	3,800	...	...	...	26,000	...	...	...	...	...	9400	...	...
" Russian	3,000	...	4,300	9,500	360	28,500	...	...	8,500	3500	...	...	...	...	...	450	500	...

* Stocks at date are based on the Chamber of Commerce Returns as at 31st Dec., 1898.

GOODS.	TOTAL DELIVERIES.			TOTAL IMPORTS.			At date Estimated.	
	As above.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1899.	Against last year to same term.	For the week.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1899.	Against last year to same term.	* At date Estimated.	Against 29th April, 1899.
Grey Shirtings	125,380	1,725,282	1,818,136	112,825	1,603,996	1,100,996	1,194,255	507,860
T-Cloths, 32-in.	2,170	284,768	315,250	20,560	251,334	186,305	287,427	188,055
" 36-in.	1,540	20,740	25,882	2,862	34,265	34,531	50,744	76,104
" Indian, 32 & 36-in.	580	12,270	24,300	...	14,160	6,420	53,480	44,120
White Shirtings	56,424	689,009	633,062	66,760	716,206	341,397	416,375	278,335
Drills, Eng. & Indian	8,325	55,083	61,140	1,782	42,212	42,384	38,000	36,938
" Dutch	20	7,770	11,365	...	1,860	...	5,445	9,320
" American	22,605	302,725	263,365	90	480,496	131,475	269,151	412,110
Jeans, Eng. & Indian	5,520	26,490	36,755	1,660	20,887	44,399	37,370	40,294
" Dutch	100	12,750	13,540	...	10,850	13,590	6,076	24,750
" American	2,980	26,885	19,560	...	42,000	16,600	17,905	1,010
Sheetings, English	22,468	234,869	238,272	27,434	335,250	110,159	128,703	...
" Indian	440	12,780	6,050	...	10,440	...	?	2,034
" American	116,115	1,077,124	756,451	...	1,263,650	284,600	398,251	393,145
Dyed Shirtings	2,000	35,560	59,435	974	20,097	22,534	?	15,592
Bro. & Sp. Shirts, D. & W.	500	7,547	10,584	...	2,394	2,134	12,506	998
Chintzes	2,754	46,018	70,151	624	12,150	976	?	275,997
Printed T-Cloths	16,793	217,379	195,619	10,646	125,855	41,616	159,651	68,414
Printed Twills	4,053	50,332	40,401	544	26,792	5,346	31,911	36,224
Turkey Red Shirtings	3,535	83,240	81,607	1,900	93,519	47,921	50,345	14,695
Velvets	392	5,055	5,760	110	1,934	1,320	3,488	10,803
Velveteens	204	3,052	3,412	...	160	96	7,967	81,949
Handkerchiefs	16,353	133,302	123,345	5,563	165,752	30,443	140,692	78,011
Muslins	5,297	87,212	81,934	5,575	167,024	35,069	114,250	6,615
Lenos & Balzamines	1,361	27,805	51,455	...	81,702	45,190	70,079	68,145
Cotton Yarn, Indian	34,283	219,694	238,842	2,940	281,880	196,875	145,851	2,564
" English	642	9,616	9,224	1,671	9,705	8,700	7,033	15,487
" Japan	9,679	90,061	75,453	1,065	91,091	85,213	30,763	8,844
" Shanghai	12,792	54,584	53,160	...	...	1,884	7,326	10,449
Spanish Stripes, Woollen	726	9,143	9,044	9	8,675	5,856	3,066	12,877
" Cotton	570	11,667	11,277	240	6,478	3,576	9,594	13,540
Med. & Broad Cloths	504	5,663	6,876	632	4,125	5,067	7,957	38,390
Camlets	700	10,240	11,447	220	8,847	7,077	28,550	12,819
Long Ella	1,380	17,334	14,685	580	12,904	5,140	17,091	48,294
Lastings	910	16,391	17,998	550	14,646	7,024	29,055	342,539
Italian Cloth	2,163	28,288	23,867	946	15,902	20,161	490	1,640
Cotton Lastings & Italian	25,264	350,844	341,263	5,963	306,380	213,802	...	58,077
Plain & Figured Orleans	...	...	260	20	7,109	6,616	2,196	?
Cotton Flannels	280	11,879	7,090	...	1,906	558	?	1,547
" Japan	...	945	567	112	20,673	25,103	4,157	47,325
Lead-in Figs	2,105	20,519	24,056	10,332	23,952	33,693	106,852	487,290
Iron-Nail Rod	2,495	35,380	51,567	...	404,970	913,895	637,625	?
Kerosene Oil, American	53,900	621,019	177,135	...	307,692	29,717	63,099	?
" Russian	58,550	485,325	103,805	...	...	...	...	...

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 1st May, 1899

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVID. & C.		Average dividends for 3 years.	Return on investment on average of 3 years' dividends.	CASH QUOTATION	
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders	When paid or due.			Closing.	
<i>Banks.</i>										per cent.		Tls.
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Co.	80,000	\$125	\$125	\$10,000,000	\$834,636.46	31-12-98	*£21	20-2-99	\$29.01	6.28	\$462.50	337.62
Bank of China & Japan Ltd.												
Do. ordinary shares	106,761	£8	£4	.....	\$£207,615.61	31-12-98	None.	.....	.....	.....	£1.00	7.50
Do. deferred do.	1,119	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£55.00	.....
National Bank of China, Ltd.	40,453	£10	£8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.00	\$20.00	14.60
Do. Do. Founders'	3,818	£10	£1	\$170,870.50	.....	31-12-98	†\$1.18	1-3-97	\$1.20	.....	nominal	.....
Do. Do. Founders'	750	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$26.00	18.98
<i>Insurance (Marine.)</i>												
Union In. Society of Canton, Ltd.	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,305,000.00	\$874,132.12	30-6-98	†\$17	21-10-98	\$16.00	6.96	\$230.00	167.90
China Traders' Ins. Co., Ltd.	24,000	\$83.33	£25	\$900,000.00	\$129,342.63	30-4-98	†\$3	11-10-98	\$4.33	6.98	\$62.00	45.26
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	5,000	£100	£25	\$250,000.00	\$237,642.60	30-6-98	†\$20	29-4-98	\$18.22	10.12	.....	180.00
Yangtze Insurance Ass'n, Ltd.	6,948	\$100	\$60	\$516,000.00	\$365,858.07	31-12-97	†\$6	23-4-98	\$12.00	10.00	\$120.00	87.60
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$85,561.27	\$5,324.5	31-12-97	†\$4	26-10-98	\$10.33	7.38	\$140.00	102.20
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$100	\$20	\$1,120,000.00	\$249,521.11	31-12-97	†\$2	27-3-96	\$0.67	16.75	\$4.00	2.92
<i>Insurance (Fire.)</i>												
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,069,316.00	\$296,540.66	31-12-98	†\$24	1-3-98	\$24.33	8.24	\$295.00	215.35
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$1,656,972.10	\$120,456.20	31-12-98	†\$6.00	21-3-99	\$6.22	7.59	\$82.00	59.86
<i>Shipping.</i>												
H'kong, C'ton & M'cao S.B. Co.	80,000	\$15	\$15	\$609,000	\$7,989.97	31-12-98	*\$1.20	31-1-99	\$2.33	7.72	\$30.00	21.90
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	49,589	£10	£10	\$216,288.44	\$1,370.70	31-12-97	†\$3.73	12-7-98	\$2.93	5.75	.....	51.00
Douglas Steamship Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	\$174,162.14	.....	30-6-98	†\$8.00	27-9-98	\$6.00	10.56	\$57.00	41.61
Ch. Mutual S.N. Co. pref. shares.	16,736	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.22	.....	72.00
Do. ord. do.	1,231	£10	£10	£20,247.26	\$2,049.44	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nom.
Do. do. do.	15,505	£10	£5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.00	.....	30.00
<i>Sugar Companies.</i>												
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co. Ltd.	5,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$76,709.09	31-8-98	†\$3	17-11-98	\$1.67	3.51	.....	47.50
China Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	\$300,000	\$27,360.15	31-12-98	†\$12	23-3-99	\$12.50	7.35	\$170.00	124.10
Luzon Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	7,000	\$100	\$100	none	\$9,819.96	31-12-98	†\$3	23-3-98	\$1.00	2.12	\$47.00	34.31
<i>Mining.</i>												
Sheridan Con. M. & M. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$165,500.30	31-12-98	None.	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.00
Punjom Mining Co. Ltd.	59,650	\$8	\$5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$6.25	4.56
Do. pref. shares.	30,000	\$1	\$1	.....	\$19,840.98	31-12-98	None.	.....	.....	.....	\$1.75	1.28
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co. Ltd.	45,000	\$5	\$5	.....	\$86,773.04	16-8-98	*\$5	15-10-94	\$0.48	5.65	\$8.50	6.20
Raub A'lian Gold Min. Co. Ltd.	200,000	£1	14/10	none	\$2,361.17	31-3-97	†\$0.52	12-12-98	\$0.76	0.13	\$57.00	41.61
<i>Docks, Wharves and Godowns.</i>												
Reyd & Co., Ltd., Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nom.
Reyd & Co., Ltd., Ordinary	7,800	\$100	\$100	\$220,600.00	\$18,585.40	30-4-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	200.00
S. C. Farnham & Co., Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$100	\$350,000	\$19,464.50	30-6-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	187.50
S'hai E. S. & Dock Co., Ltd. ord.	6,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$25,319.63	30-4-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90.00
Do. Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	220.00
Do. Pref.	1,300	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	101.00
H'kong & W'poa Dock Co., Ltd.	12,500	\$125	\$125	\$800,000	\$92,194.75	31-12-98	*16%	28-2-99	\$33.33	6.23	\$535.00	390.55
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ltd.	15,100	\$100	\$100	.....	\$22,713.67	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	165.00
H'kong & K'loon Wh. & G. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	\$64,229.56	\$44,544.37	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	63.51
<i>Lands.</i>												
Sh. Land Investment Co., Ltd.	26,000	\$50	\$50	\$205,955.11	\$15,480.83	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	82.50
H'kong Land Invest. & A. Co. Ltd.	50,000	\$100	\$50	\$1,250,000	\$67,854.93	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	56.94
Kowloon Land & Building Co. Ltd.	5,960	\$50	\$50	none	\$550.70	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15.33
Humphreys Estate & F. Co. Ltd.	37,000	\$10	\$10	\$25,000.00	\$519.03	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.57
<i>Industrial.</i>												
Shanghai Gas Co.	3,000	\$100	\$100	\$100,000	\$28,653.55	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	190.00
Major Brothers, Ltd.	5,500	\$50	\$50	.....	\$377.73	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40.00
Ewo Cotton Sp. & W. Co., Ltd.	10,600	\$100	\$100	.....	\$17,649.89	31-10-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70.00
International Cotton Man. Co. Ltd.	8,384	\$100	\$100	.....	\$75,289.97	30-9-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75.00
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70.00
Soy Chee Cotton Spin. Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$500	\$500	\$2,366.61	\$18,337.61	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	330.00
Yah Loong Cotton Spin. Co., Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$100	.....	\$44,652.61	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55.00
H'kong Cotton S.W. & D. Co., Ltd.	9,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85.00
S'hai Eis Actien Gesellschaft.	540	\$100	\$100	\$110,000.00	.....	31-10-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	82.00
Shanghai Ice, Cold Storage & Refrigeration Co., Ltd.	3,000	\$25	\$25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29.00
Shanghai Rice Mill Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$25	\$25	.....	\$648.29	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25.00
China Flour Mill Co., Ltd.	4,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$1,659.27	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40.00
American Cigarette Co., Ltd.	3,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$3,282.71	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60.00
S'hai Feather Cleaning Co., Ltd.	300	\$500	\$500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	400.00
<i>Tugs and Cargo Boats.</i>												
Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$82,500.00	\$181.17	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	230.00
Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd.	8,680	\$150	\$150	\$1,297,500.00	\$9,714.66	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	175.00
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$100	\$100	\$130,425.39	\$1,518.66	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	150.00
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$61,152.84	\$1,436.27	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	135.00
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>												
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	7,200	\$20	\$20	\$40,000.00	\$4,720.44	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	266.00
Tientsin Waterworks Co., Ltd.	575	\$100	\$100	.....	\$75,587.62	30-4-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100.00
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.	13,000	\$20	\$20	\$78,500.00	\$164.31	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62.00
Shanghai-Langkai Tob. Co., Ltd.	3,980	\$100	\$100	.....	\$219,716.12	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90.00
Do. New issue	3,980	\$100	\$75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	65.00
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	1,800	\$50	\$50	.....	\$5,160.85	31-12-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62.50
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd.	1,200	\$100	\$100	.....	\$1,166.77	31-12-97	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	44.53
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.	6,250	\$20	\$20	\$145,000.00	\$6,031.59	28-2-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26.28
A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$10	\$10	\$125,000	\$9,239.01	31-12-97	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10.22
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.	8,200	£1	£1	.....	\$135.13	31-12-96	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nom.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$10	\$10	none	\$5,762.15	30-4-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.49
Central Stores, Ltd.	6,000	\$20	\$20	.....	\$24,883.94	31-1-99	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.03

J. P. BISSET & Co.